# WALSALL

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Thursday, February 27, 2014

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### **In sequence**

Finding their feet as dancing takes off See Page 2



# Glam-tastic

Shelley-Marie rules as she wins contest



# Saddlers slip

Defeat another blow for play-off hopes See Page 44



# **Protest** due over finances of council

PROTESTERS will be out in force today, outside Walsall Council House ahead of the crunch meeting taking place tonight, where a final vote will be held on the authority's budget cuts.

The Walsall Against Cuts group is to stage the demonstration when members

stration when members of Walsall Council meet to debate the controversial

debate the controversial budget.

Members of the group say they are taking action because they believe the authority should make a greater stand against big Government funding cuts which have led to the budget being slashed. Scores of banner-waving campaigners are expected to gather at the local authority base for the protest.

local authority base for the protest.

A series of leaflet drops have taken place across the area to highlight the event and members gathered in the town centre on Saturday to advise residents of the demonstration.

Chairman of Walsall Against Cuts, Martin Lynch, a member of the National Union of Teachers who works in Halesowen, said he hoped it would be a 'significant' demonstration. He said: "We will hold a protest at the council meeting on Thursday."

Thursday.

"We will assemble from 5pm outside the council house.

ouse. ● Listened – See Page 6

#### Warehouse plan details

AN information event will be held tomorrow, Friday, over £1.5 million plans for a new retail warehouse which will create up to 60 jobs. Moves to open a 45,000 sq ft JTF outlet on Bescot Retail

JTF outlet on Bescot Refail Park in Walsall, selling discount goods, are expected to be considered by councillors on March 13.

The warehouse will be the business's first in the Black Country selling goods including clothing, furniture and DIY items, with 12 other branches in the UK. The event runs from 10am to 4pm at the retail park.

# CRASH TRAGEDY ROCKS SCHOOL

# It's a right royal bash for wrestlers



A top wrestling line up will be on the bill at the Saddlers Club - Slade Mercer gives Deacon Turner a lift

WRESTLERS are getting ready to rumble and entertain an audience to-morrow at a show in the Black Coun-

A 30-man royal rumble will be the main feature of a show at the Saddlers Club in Walsall.

The royal rumble match was invented in America in the late 1980s and features 30 wrestlers entering the ring at 30 second intervals.

The only way to be eliminated from the match is to be thrown over the top proper of the wrestling ring to the floor.

and the last man standing receives the Great British Royal Rumble 2014 trophy.

The match will feature wrestlers from across the UK and Matt Pow-ell, who goes by the name of Mad Dog Maxx, will represent Walsall at the event.

Mr Powell, aged 29, of Fullbrook, said: "I was so happy when I heard that this year's Great British Royal Rumble match would be held in Wal-sall. I immediately put my name forward. I was even more ecstatic when I was accepted. To be entering such a prestigious match in my home town, in front of my family, my friends and my home town fans, it couldn't be a better incentive for me to train so hard.

"Tve been wrestling since I was 15, a good long career, and I've never won this match, never held this trophy, so I want to add it to my CV." Doors open at 7pm, with the show starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £5, or £17.50 for a family of four, and are available from the club. Call 07747 441028 for details.

A SCHOOL has paid tribute to 'model student' Natasha Whale, aged 13, who was tragically killed in a car crash on Monday morning.

Her mother Shelley, who was driving a Renault Clio, was continuing to fight for her life following the accident. Tributes have poured in for the Walsall Academy pupil who was in the back seat.

for the Walsall Academ back seat.

The school said: "Natasha was a model student who loved performing arts and sport. She was popular with staff and students alike and will be sadly missed.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this very difficult time."

Natasha's brother, 17-year-old Callum, had been in the front seat of the Clio at the time it crashed with an AdamsTours coach. He has since been released from hospital.

Her 45-year-old mother was, at the time of going to press, in a 'critical' condition. The family are believed to have lived in St John's Road, Pelsall until they moved to St. Paul's Crescent in the village two months ago.

Inundated

#### Inundated

Natasha was a keen foot-baller and played for for Wyrley Pumas, the female section of Wyrley Juniors FC and later Burntwood Phoenix

section of Wyrley Juniors FC and later Burntwood Phoenix. Wyrley Juniors club chairman Keith Hardy, said: "She was a quiet, very well-mannered girl who was

well-mannered girl who was very enthusiastic. She was a credit to her family."
A Facebook page set up in Natasha's memory has been inundated with tributes. Donna Selvey said: "Taken too soon, deepest of sympathy for her family, and wish her mom and brother well in their recovery, so sad RIP



Natasha Whale, aged 13

Angel." Firefighters were called to the scene at Valley Road in Blakenall at 8.15am.

Road in Blakenall at 8.15am. The road was closed at all its junctions for more than four hours for investigations. Natasha's mother was treated for serious multiple injuries and was airlifted to the major trauma centre at University Hospital of North Staffordshire. Cal-North Staffordshire. Cal-lum was treated for pelvic injuries and was taken to the same hospital for fur-ther assessment. The coach is owned by Bloxwich-based Adams Tours and was trans-porting seven children from Shelfield Academy.

Shelfield Academy.
Meanwhile, concerned residents and councillors called for safety measures to be introduced along the road – as it emerged that a bus crash happened there five months ago.

• Witnesses – See Page 8

# **Steroids** sex beast locked up by judge

A DRUG-FUELLED body-builder who set out to rape two women – pouring a corrosive substance over one after trying to strangle here is behind bars.

Thomas Morris, aged 20, was pumped up on steroids, the amphetamine M Cat and Viagra when he carried out the two sexually-motivated assaults. In one terrifying attack, he tricked his way into a victim's home by claiming he had seen an intruder in her garden.

Morris, of Foxtail Way, Cannock, then put a cloth over her face, tried to strangle her and, while she was unconscious, poured a corrosive substance on her body, leaving her with burns, Stafford Crown Court was told.

He had planned to sexually assault the woman but left without doing so.

It was the second of two assaults by Morris in the same day. Earlier, he had taken a young woman to a secluded spot near Chasewater Country Park. But she had managed to push him away and get free. He later took her back to Walsall.

Judge Michael Elsom locked Morris up for five years and eight months. He admitted two charges of assault with intent to commit

admitted two charges of assault with intent to commit a sexual offence. He also admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm, assault caus-ing actual bodily harm and assault by beating.

#### Male choir in concert

A MALE voice choir will

A MALE voice choir will perform at a tiny Walsall church that is becoming a popular concert venue.

Walsall Harmonic Male Voice Choir will perform at the Church Of Christ The King, in Lichfield Road, Rushall, on March 8.

The event will start at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £4 and includes refreshments. Bookings are available on

Bookings are available on 01922 442956.

Mike Blakemore, of the nurch committee, said the church committee, said the tabernacle was still used for

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**Bosses in** 

effort to

clear up

at marina

A CRACKDOWN has been

#### **NEWS**

#### CONTENTS Peter Rhodes 7 Letters Memory Lane What's on Puzzle page 25 TV listings **Property** Motoring 38 Classified Sport

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# CHRONICLE

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# New recruits wanted for uni 'Army'

STUDENTS and staff are being urged to sign up to a new army platon which is being set up by the University of Wolverhampton.

The educational establishment is to become one of the first in the country to offer army training. It will see those who sign up made members of the Army Reserve, formally known as the Territorial Army. That could see them called up for action if needed by the regu-

lar army. Free basic army training will be offered to students and staff

will be offered to students and staff aged between 18 and 43.
And the 'recruits' will be paid £424 a year, increasing to £1,674 after five years.
Bosses at the university have been working with 143 – West Midlands – Brigade and 4 Mercian Regiment to develop the platoon.
They told potential recruits that the training would develop every as-

pect of their lives. Training will take place during evenings and weekends and there will also be a two-week annual army camp.

Lianne Bradbury, the University of Wolverhampton's Armed Forces co-ordinator, urged students and staff to sign up.

Training will take place at the Army Reserve Centre in Fallings Park. As well as basic Army training, recruits will learn military

skills and take part in activities like climbing, scuba diving and kayak

Bosses said that people who meet Bosses said that people who meet the requirements to join the Army Reserve would be eligible for training allowances and a tax-free lump sum called a Bounty.

Recruitment sessions are taking place today, Thursday, from 11am to 2pm at The Performance Hub in the Walsall Campus.

A CRACKDOWN has been launched after engineering equipment was stored at a marina without permission. Planning bosses say the equipment must be moved from Ogley Lock Marina in Brownhills. But the site's owners have appealed and say they should be allowed to use the site for storage. Owners also claim there has not been a breach of regulations and that they have not been given enough time to comply. A report by Lichfield District Council's development control manager Claire Billings states: "The site is located within the West Midlands green belt outside of any settlement boundary where it is subject to a stricter degree of development control.

ary where it is subject to a stricter degree of develop-ment control.

"The use of the land for the open storage of large pieces of equipment used in civil engineering projects represents inappropriate development in green belt and no very special circum-stances have been demon-strated to outweigh the harm."

harm."
Members of the public can raise their views to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol by March 21.

#### Jobless rise for borough

DESPITE unemployment in the UK falling nationally, job queues are getting longer in Walsall. National

Jonger in Walsall National figures show a 125,000 drop between October and December to 2.34 million. In the West Midlands unemployment fell by 31,000 to 226,000, although at 8.2 per cent the region's jobless rate is higher than the 7.2 per cent national average. But in Walsall the claimant count rose by 238 to 8,254, or 4.9 per cent of the borough's working population. Nationally the number of people claiming jobseekof people claiming jobseek-er's allowance fell 27,000 to 1.22 million last month.

#### Caravan rolls on

PROG rock heroes from the 1970s, Caravan, have an-nounced a date in the Black nounced a date in the black Country as part of their lat-est tour. Founding member Pye Hastings is still part of the group. Tickets for the show, which takes place at the Robin 2 in Bilston on March 7, are £20.

£899

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# Major Manor revamp is needed, says MP

TWO new wards, a revamp of intensive care,

work on the A&E department and an extension to maternity services is what is needed at Walsall Manor Hospital, an MP has said.

Walsall North MP David Winnick has written to health secretary Jeremy Hunt and NHS funding chief David Flory, of the Trust Development Authority, calling for investment to help health chiefs cope

velopment of intensive care work for the A&E section

and extension to maternity

facilities."

In December the hospital dealt with 94.2 per cent of patients within the Government target of four hours – below the 95 per cent Government target.

The hospital has dealt with increasing demands from the Staffordshire area and a recent norovirus out-

and a recent norovirus out-break put further pressure on beds last month. Walsall Healthcare NHS

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust chief executive Rich-ard Kirby said: "I think we would find it a real chal-lenge in accommodating the Staffordshire work we are going to be asked to do in a few years time if we don't get that capital resource.

facilities."

# as patient numbers soar. Between April and December there were 20,737 admissions to the hospital with the numbers through the doors up every month compared to what is exnected Fresh start for DJ after compared to what is expected. In October there were 2,421 admissions, which was 281 higher than the target. The planned target is 25,098, which is expected to be exceeded. In 2011/12 the number of admissions was just 22,128. Hospital bosses have said a £14m upgrade is necessary to cope with the rising number of patients. Mr Winnick said: "What is needed at the Manor as a result of the very large number of extra patients is two extra medical wards, redevelopment of intensive care, work for the A&F. Received. breakfast

A POPULAR radio presenter has announced he is to leave his role on Free Radio after more than two decades in the industry.

in the industry.

Nigel Freshman – better known as Fresh – has been a breakfast presenter with the station for 17 years and been with the firm formerly known as Beacon for 24 years. He currently presents the breakfast show with Cat James in the station's Oldbury home. Mr Freshman will leave tomorrow, Friday.

He told listeners on his

will leave tomorrow, Friday.

He told listeners on his
Facebook page: "I have to
announce that after many
years of being on the radio
here at Free (and it's former
guise) I am moving on to
new things. It's been a real
pleasure to be part of your
mornings.

"My final day here will be February 28 and I certainly encourage you to join in as much as you can to make these last shows of mine ex-tremely memorable."

Ed Nell will take over Mr Freshman's seat while a permanent replacement is sought. The station moved to Oldbury last year after leaving its base on Tetten. leaving its base on Tetten-hall Road in Wolverhamp-

www.windowtechinterframe.co.uk

# Delight fantastic for dozens



Front is Josie Beechey, aged 74, from Coven and Irene Glover, 74, from Wednesbury IT was relaunched six months ago with just a handful of members, now a social se-quence dance is becoming a highlight of the week for dozens of sure-footed movers.

Around 50 people are now gathering to do the likes of the cha cha and rumba at Darlaston Town Hall on Wednesdays. The weekly event was started up again last sumer after Fran Szewiola was asked to start playing music for the dance.

There were initially around 12 members

Units 1, 2 & 9 Brickyard Rd, Aldridge WS9 8SR

but this has continued to rise through word-of-mouth and it now regularly attracts peo-ple aged from their mid-50s to aged 90.

Organisers are now keen to encourage more people to take part in the sessions which run between 1.15 and 3.30pm.

which run between 1.15 and 3.30pm.
Mrs Szewiola, aged 47, from Darlaston,
said: "A few of the ladies they come to the
dance and then go shopping in the town."
Admission to the dance is £2 per person and
for details call 0121 526 3603.



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# £1k raised by chemist workers to help cause

FAMILY-RUN pharma-has raised £1,000 for St les Walsall Hospice by

Giles vialue.
selling perfume.
Walkers Pharmacy, in
Avenue, Great Moreton Avenue, Great Barr, which is owned by pharmacist Malkit Singh, donated £1 from the sale of every perfume to the leading local charity.

local charity.

The pharmacy also had collection tins for the hospice on display. Store manager Tirath Kandola said: "We've been raising money for a local charity like this every Christmas for the past nine years.

"It's very popular with customers because they're not only buying a special gift for their loved one but also supporting a local good

also supporting a local good

cause. "Each year a different member of staff chooses a charity, and this year it was Tasha Woloszyniuk who decided on St Giles Walsall Hospice. It's obviously a much-valued local charity as we had lots of customers saying they had relatives who'd been cared for there." Sharon White, community fundraising manager

Sharon White, community fundraising manager for St Giles Walsall Hospice, said: "We are very grateful to organisations such as Walkers Pharmacy for their fundraising efforts."

#### Jail return for accused

A MAN is back behind bars following an appeal to trace him in connection with a recall to prison and an alleged pub assault.

Detectives appealed to the public to help trace Michael Pennings earlier this week in connection with a re-

in connection with a re-ported attack in the toilets of the Woden Inn, Church Hill, Wednesbury, in No-

Hill, Wednesbury, in No-vember last year.
The 24-year-old was also wanted on recall to prison for a breach of licence con-ditions. Police on patrol in Walsall stopped a car in Pel-sall, leading to the arrest. He was bailed in connection with the alleged wounding.

#### **35 homes plan**

PLANS to build 35 homes have been unveiled. The scheme has been earmarked for land off Bankfield Road and Greenway Road in Bil-ston. If given the go-ahead, it will complement another new housing development which is being built nearby

# **Praise for Pc who dragged burning**

A POLICE officer who helped save resi-

A POLICE officer who helped save residents from a killer arsonist by dragging a burning wheelie bin away from homes has been praised by a judge. Pc Paul Florey was patrolling in Wychbold Close, Willenhall, in the early hours of October 8, 2012 following reports of a house fire when he spotted flames up to 8ft high lapping up against an external door. He forced open a garden gate and managed to pull the bin — which had been jammed up against the handle in a deliberate attempt to trap residents — clear of properties before the blaze was able to take hold inside the maisonettes. been praised by a judge.

Pe Paul Florey was patrolling in Wychbold Close, Willenhall, in the early hours of October 8, 2012 following reports of a house fire when he spotted flames up to 8ft high lapping up against an external door.

He forced open a garden gate and managed to pull the bin — which had been jammed up against the handle in a deliberate attempt to trap residents — clear of

officers to a flat fire in Southey Close and reports of a man seen with a burning jacket in Wychbold Close.

in Wychbold Close.

"I went to the rear of the block, kicked open the gate and saw a wheelie bin alight. I had no fire extinguisher but to prevent the fire taking hold any more I dragged it away from the UPVC door. The bin seemed to be wedged under the outward opening door so anyone trying to escape would be trapped inside by the burning bin.

"The door frame and ledge had melted."

door frame and ledge had melted and had I arrived a few minutes later I've no doubt it would have spread inside the premises and could have been fatal."

A patrol colleague handed PC Florey a fire extinguisher from his car to douse the flames. Elmore was arrested just after 4am 'shaking and nervous' wandering along a nearby street.

Shaking and nervous' wandering along a nearby street. Pc Florey added: "I've worked in front line policing for 11 years and, thankfully, these incidents don't happen often." In November Judge Warner sentenced Elmore to life with a minimum of 21 years for mynder.

for murder. He got 11 years for the Southey Close arson and eight years for the attack in Wychbold Way. All the sentences will run con-

# Rosie's Walk to

have 60s theme

PREPARATIONS are under way for the annual Rosie's Charity Walk and Festival in memory of a teenager who was fatally stabbed in 2001.

This year's event will be held on July 13 at Aldridge Airport and the organisers say plans are in full swing. Flower Power and the 1960s will be the theme of the day set up in memory. 1960s will be the theme of the day set up in memory of Aldridge School pupil Rosie Ross who was at-tacked in Birmingham. Walsall band Enticement will be performing along with other acts.

#### Chocs away for visitors record

TOURIST attraction Cadbury World is celebrating a third consecutive year of record-breaking visitor numbers.

numbers.

Last year, the popular family chocolate-themed attraction at Bournville in Birmingham welcomed more than 668,000 visitors beating 2012's previous all-time high.

The success looks set to carry on in 2014 with the

The success looks set to carry on in 2014 with the attraction already welcoming more than 30,000 visitors since it opened on January 22 – a five per cent increase on 2013.

#### Entrepreneurs of future given tips

YOUNG entrepreneurs have been getting advice on how to develop their businesses as part of a £15,000 social enterprise

£15,000 social enterprise project. Walsall College is the only one in the West Mid-lands, to receive funding worth £15,000 towards the initiative. Tony Andrews, who has more than 25 vears' experience in menyears' experience in men-toring, talked to students.

#### Stress levels in elderly explored

DEPRESSION and frailty in older age may be linked to thyroid and stress hormone levels.

One research team found lower morning and higher evening levels of stress hormone cortisol to be as-sociated with weakness. Another found over-active thyroid glands may be a risk factor for depression in the older population.

#### Hospital's £2,000

ALDRIDGE and District Dog Training Club has donated \$2,000 to the hae-matology department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Members of the club raised the mon-ey throughout last year.

# So crazy to think you have saved a life, says daughter

impossible to put into words the feeling of waking up and realising you have saved someone's life.

And it was not just any life the 21-year-old had saved. It was the wom-an who had gifted her with her own

an who had gifted her with her own life.

When Milissa's 49-year-old mother Mandy needed a life-saving operation after her body's immune system began to attack her kidneys, the 21-year-old from Bloxwich immediately volunteered to help.

And on Valentine's Day, the years of motherly love Mandy had given her daughter was paid back when Milissa underwent an operation to donate one of her kidneys.

"When I came round after the operation, I didn't really think about it," Millie said.

"I was in a different world because of all the drugs I was on. But the next day I woke

"I was in a different world because of all the drugs I was on. But the next day I woke up and realised what had happened. "You can't explain it. We were on the same ward and when I looked at my mom she just looked so much better. She looked completely different.

#### Grateful

"It's crazy to think you have saved some-one's life, but when it is your mom's life it's

one's life, but when it is your mom's life it's so much better.

"We just cried when we first saw each other. I was with her in hospital but I came home on Tuesday, so hopefully she is home soon. It was so hard to see her the way she was but now were are both grateful for what has happened."

Millie, who is her mom's carer, immediately volunteered to donate a kidney when

doctors told the family a live donation would be possible.

And while undergoing months of tests to see if they were compatible, Millie also started up a Pacebook page to raise awareness of kidney disease and donation.

ness or kinney disease and conation.

The page now has almost 3,000 likes.

Her father, Roy, said: "I'm just so proud

of her. I'm proud of the both of them.

"At first we were saying there was no way

twe was going to do it but she was insistent.

"It's not just the fact that she has done

"It's not just the fact that she has done it, but also that she is now so determined to raise the profile of live donations.

"For a 21-year-old girl I think that is amazing and we are all so proud of her."



Milissa, aged 21, with her proud father Roy after her operation Milissa and mum Mandy after their operation at hospital

The family have another daughter, Natalie, who is currently in America as she is bridesmaid at her best friend's wedding. Natalie also has a two-year-old daughter, called Tallula.

Lorry driver Roy said: "It's a shame the

way the dates have fallen with Natalie being in America but when she gets back she is going to go straight to the hospital to see her mon" see her mom

see ner mom.

Mandy, who works in Asda, fell ill from
the rare condition, and was on dialysis for
more than a year while waiting for the opcertion.

Her husband said: "After a pregnancy, ometimes cells from the baby stay behind

and then the immune system can decide to

attack it.
"That's basically what happened with Mandy and her immune system just kept getting more aggressive and attacked her kidneys.

"We knew she had it but it wasn't that bad and then all of a sudden she had kidney failure.
"That was about 16 months ago and she had to have dialysis at home to keep her

ing. "It was horrible. She is normally such an

active, fun person to be around.
"It was like she was a different person. I wanted my wife back and the kids wanted

their mom back. When I saw her after her operation you could see straight away she looked a lot better.

"It's not over yet though. It's great to have Millie back home but I think it will be a while until Mandy comes home."

Mandy was taken to Walgrave University Hospital in Coventry, where they shut down her immune system to allow her to have the operation.

down her immune system to anow her to have the operation. He said: "Because of that they are keep-ing her in and it's going to be a long while until she's back to her best. "I can't say enough how amazing the staff have been at the hospital. Everyone has just been fantastic."



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A READER is troubled by the British Gas advert offering "unlimited" call-outs to fix your broken boiler. He says: "It doesn't say much for the quality of the plumbers they employ, does it?" He's got a point. What is the difference between unlimited call-outs and one flaming call-out after

#### 

FORTY religious leaders condemn government welfrom the ligibus leaders contenting government welfare policy and the numbers relying on food banks, and reap a rich crop of headlines ("Bishops Slam Cam Over UK's Hunger Crisis" - Daily Mirror), It is a puzzle of this cheerfully godless age of ours that we still pay attention to the views of people whose only claim to authority is being far more superstitious than the rest of us.

DAVID Miranda this week lost his High Court case claiming he had been unlawfully detained at Heathrow while carrying computer files for his partner, Guardian journalist Glenn Greenwald. Miranda says he will appeal "and keep appealing to the end," and he probably will. A High Court case and subsequent appeals would bankrupt most folk but there always seems to be a bottomless pot of money for people fighting cases such as this. And six months after the incident, we still don't know what Miranda was doing at Heathrow in the first place. His mission was to get from Berlin to his home in Brazil. He could have taken any number of direct flights. Instead, bizarrely, he flew into one of only two countries in the world (the other being the United States) where he was likely to be detained. The flight was arranged and paid for by the Guardian. Amid all the tub-thumping about national security and press freedom, we are not being told even half of this story. we are not being told even half of this story.

#### 00000000

IF I were a conspiracy theorist I might think the Guardian brought Miranda to Heathrow as part of a win-win operation. If he gets nicked you have a great story about the UK authorities attacking press freedom. If he doesn't get nicked, you have a great story about tens of thousands of confidential files slipping in and out of the country under the noses of bungling cops. Gosh, what an old cynic I am.

#### 00000000

WITH the row over keeping the pound and losing EU membership, the Scottish independence debate was lookmembership, the Scottish independence debate was looking like one of those deliciously civilised divorces when the couple are determined to stay friends. She wants the Volvo? No problem. He wants the piano? Be my guest. And then suddenly you hit a raw point. The civilised smiles vanish. Spitting, snarling fury takes over. What's that? You'd like the dog, too? Over my dead body, you greedy cow. But the longer this saga drags on, the more you realise it isn't like a divorce at all. A married couple is made up of two separate bodies but Scotland and England are hardwired into each other. We share the same blood, muscle and sinews. Independence is like separating a pair of conjoined twins. Given enough time and clever, skilled surinlews. include in the state of the state of

A READER enquires: "Does the chairman of a fishing club have the casting vote?"

#### 

A GREAT little documentary on BBC World Service told how the locals looted (or "saved," as they put it) the cargo of whisky from SS Politician, a cargo ship which sank in 1941 off the Scottish island of Eriskay. The plundering of thousands of cases of single malt was the basis of the book and film Whisky Calorel and has been told many times. But the radio documentary reveals that some islanders were so "under the influence," as one old chap put it, that they forced where they had buried it It's still un there they had buried it It's still un there. forgot where they had buried it. It's still up there.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes** every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

# £359k windfall to boost elderly

A WINDFALL of £359,000 has been secured to extend services for older people in Bloxwich and Blakenall.

The cash will pay for a range of social and learning activities to help reduce cases of loneliness and feelings of isolation.

The five-year project at the Stan

ings of isolation.

The five-year project at the Stan
Ball Centre will focus on those aged
50 and over. Day-to-day care will
be extended from five to six days
a week. Adults in need of personal

will also be catered for under the new provision.

A programme of regular activities, including craft, IT and dance, will be arranged alongside weekly meet-ups for people wanting to develop friendships.

Staff say the cash will ensure users get the most out of their time at the centre and are given the support to engage as fully as possible.

The money – which goes to Bloxwich Community Partnership – has come from the Big Lottery Fund.

Eleanor Boycott, chief executive of the partnership, welcomed the news. She said: "I'm delighted. It's a great opportunity for older people of Bloxwich and Blakenall to have access to and be involved in activities on their doorstep, with the added security of knowing support is available if they need it. We

have an excellent staff team working on the project who will strive to improve the lives of older people within our community.

within our community.

The Stan Ball Centre, in Abbots
Street, Bloxwich, is one of three
community centres run by the Bloxwich Community Partnership. It
also runs services from the Electric
Palace, a centre for young people in
Elmore Row and Blakenall Community Centre.

# women hopefuls

**Training** help for

FEMALE offenders are being offered a route back into work thanks to a self-improvement programme run by a former women's probation officer.

Janet Lindsay, of JR Training and Consultancy, runs Simple Truths from the Small Street Community Centre in Walsall.

Through a combination

the Small Street Community Centre in Walsall.

Through a combination of group discussions, weekly one-on-one sessions and a voluntary work placement, Janet aims to help those who enrol drastically improve their future. To enrol, women must already be receiving support for alcohol or drug dependency from another organisation.

They also need to allow Simple Truths to take top priority in their lives. Janet said: "Some women will come into the programme and quickly lose interest because their main concern has to be looking after their

has to be looking after their family and their home. They

family and their home. They need to be in a good place and Simple Truths needs to be their main priority."

The programme was created to provide a service for women in Walsall that Janet felt was lacking, with the majority of intervention programmes catered towards men.

#### **Locks firm** awards win

A BLACK Country security firm is celebrating after locking down two prestigious national awards. Yale based in School Street, Willenhall, won the Best Security Product of the Year and Judges Choice accolades at the DIY Week awards.

The gongs were handed over in recognition of the firm's Easy Fit SmartPhone Alarm, an innovative security device which raises an external siren once activated by smart phone. David Herbert, head of marketing, said: "Winning a coveted DIY Week award is a fantastic achievement for Yale, let alone winning two!"

#### **Dubai delight**

AN award-winning Indian restaurant in Birmingham is getting ready to welcome its 500.000th customer who

its 500,000th customer who will win a three-day break in Dubai.

Asha's in Newhall Street, in the city centre, expects to serve the lucky diner either this week, or next.

# Public use of school facilities set to stop

swimming pool, theatre and football pitches to the community at the end of March, leaving groups and organisations weeks to find

a new venue.

Brownhills School has provided community provision for more than 30 years but bosses say it is no longer sustainable or viable as it is not making

enough income to cover By Lisa O'Brien

enough income to cover outgoings.
But groups which use the venue and serve hundreds of people a week said it came as an 'absolute shock' when they were told the news.
Headteacher Helen Keenan said out of the 700 pupils at the school, just eight of them used the facilities out of hours.
She said that community

She said that community use had been under review

ase had been under teview
each year.

Ms Keenan said: "Every
year it's getting tighter and
tighter. It's not sustainable
or viable. The use locally
is quite low. It is illegal for
a school to use its school
budget to subsidise community activities. The commu-

nity activities. The community has to pay for itself."

She said the majority of user groups were commer-cial operations which profit

cial operations which profit from the use of the site. "Out of the 700 children in the school, only eight use it out of hours," she added. She said groups would be able to use the site until the end of March. But Aqualym-pic Swim Schools runs

swimming sessions for up to 250 children twice a week

to 250 children twice a week from the pool and bosses have been left scrambling around to find a new venue. Stuart Wildman, manag-ing director of the school, which formed in 1994 and teaches youngsters and teaches youngsters and teenagers, said: "We were told about it in January and

techniques, sand. We were told about it in January and they have given us until March 31. It was an absolute complete shock. I've been at that school since 1996."

Aqualympic Swim Schools currently uses the pool on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

He has also written to Aldridge-Brownhills MP, Sir Richard Shepherd, and Prime Minister David Cameron about the move.

But the Aldridge-Brownhills MP said he backed the decision of the school governors and praised the results the school had managed to achieve. The school aged to achieve. The school was named seventh top per-former in the borough for GCSEs last month.

### Santander in closures

A MAJOR bank is to shut its branches in two locations Santander has announced the closures of its agency outlets in Burntwood and Lichfield in Staffordshire.

The agencies provide limited banking services under Santander's branding. Previously the bank had looked to third-party agents, such as insurance brokers or estate agents, to expand its UK network. Now it wants to concentrate operations on its own retail branches offering full banking.Bank bosses wrote to customers last week advising them of the decision. The branches are due to close between June and September.



Shelley-Marie's crowning glory

TIARAS, glamorous gowns and a whole truckload of hairspray – it can mean only one thing. The hottest tournament in town returned – and now the new queen of the Black Country has taken her crown.

Watched over by the current Miss England, 22-year-old Shelley-Marie Sumner from Walsall was named Miss Black Country 2014 during an expiring of distrance.

try 2014 during an evening of glitz and glamour on Saturday.

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The part-time dance teacher from Morris Avenue in Bentley beat 20 others to the
title at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton. She said: "I'm shocked. I heard third
and then second called out, and I thought
'oh well, I might as well have stayed in
my onesie". I began to walk off a bit and
thought I couldn't wait to get into bed. But then I heard my name called – I'm shocked but really pleased."



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# Outlet for Towns boosted by nearly 500 extra jobs NEW services to move up road

A BUSY post office will move into a new home and more than double its open-

ing hours.

Moxley Post Office will be moving 645 metres from its current site in Roberts Close to Kendrick News, in Kendrick Road. The current post office is planned to close on March 18 at 5.30pm

close on March 18 at 5.30pm and will reopen at its new location a day later at 1pm.
Customers will be advised to use Darlaston Post Office, in Victoria Road, during the short period of closure.
The plans will see the branch's opening hours extend to 103 per week and will give access to services seven days a week.
Post office local is a new concept for delivering post

Post office local is a new concept for delivering post office services and the new facility will have a screened serving point where products and services will be available throughout shop opening hours.

The move is part of major modernisation programme across the Post Office network designed to make it easier for customers to do business, through longer opening hours and modern open plan environments. open plan environments. The new branch will open

between 6am and 9pm from Monday to Saturdays and 7am to 8pm on Sundays.

#### Shop set for expansion

A MINI supermarket is to relocate as part of a £160,000 investment pro-

ject.
Trader Harjit Singh, who runs a Nisa store in Walsall, has bought out a neighbouring Spar shop and is poised to relocate to the larger supermarket building after giving it a makeover.
The 42-year-old said refurbishment work at the store in the parade of shops.

store in the parade of shops in Spring Lane, High Heath, in Spring Lane, High Heath, was already underway. He said: "We took it over in December and now we're in the middle of major refurbishment." The new supermarket will open next month.

#### **Delays warning**

A ONE-WAY system are now in place during water main works. They are be-ing carried out along Wilkes Avenue in Bentley, Walsall, until March 7

Restrictions will be in place between the junctions of Mountbatten Road and Churchill Road.

ALMOST 500 extra jobs were created in towns across Walsall within the last year, new figures have revealed.

The launch of new businesses or relocations and comparing of companies and companies of the second seco

The launch of new businesses or relo-cation and expansion of companies saw hundreds of posts created across Bloxwich, Darlaston, Willenhall and Aldridge. Walsall Council says independent traders in the borough have continued to thrive with an extra 499 people employed com-pared to the previous 12 months. However, there was a slight drop in jobs in Brown-hills.

The overall upward trend comes despite a recent study by the Local Data Company

which claimed Walsall had the highest number of empty shops, with 26.7 per cent empty in 2013. But council chiefs criticised those figures, insisting major regeneration schemes were taking place or were poised to start in the town centre in the near future. This includes the multi-million pound transformation of the Old Square Shopping Centre which is due to see Primark and Co-on one next ver.

Co-op open next year. In Bloxwich, a total of 238 jobs were created between January and December 2013. In total there are now 2,506 people working

This was helped by cleaning and ground

rise.

In Darlaston jobs have risen from 780 to 916 – an increase of 136 with Scorpions Gym having set up and Price Wise doubling the size of their retail unit.

New independent traders have also taken over vacant units in Willenhall town centre with 102 extra jobs created lifting the total from 1,382 to 1,484.

In Aldridge, the number of jobs within the village centre has risen from 1,351 to 1,390 - an increase of 39 positions. However, despite 18 new businesses setting up

in Brownhills there has been an overall decrease of 16 positions. The area has been hit by the closure of national chains Blockbuster and Cool Trader.

Regeneration chief councillor Adrian Andrew said overall district centres were thriving. "Over the last few years we have seen a steady increase in the number of new businesses setting up in our district centres and a continuing upward trend in the number of new jobs created across the five areas year on year," he said.

"The key to having successful district centres is to ensure there is a wide range of retailers offering a variety of services."

#### Awards scheme final 24 unveiled

TWENTY-FOUR Walsall town centre businesses have been shortlisted as finalists in a new awards scheme which recognises excellence among the town's traders.

The selected firms will large way on to final judging

The selected firms will now go on to final judging in the inaugural Walsall Town Centre Business Awards scheme.

The awards scheme was launched jointly by Black Country Chamber of Comerce, Walsall Council and Walsall firms. Winners will be announced at the Town be announced at the Town Hall on March 14.

#### Toy fair comes to leisure centre

AN array of old fashioned toys will be on display at a leisure centre next week-

end.

A Toy and Train Collectors Fair is taking place next Sunday at Oak Park Leisure Centre in Walsall Wood.

Wood.

More than 70 stalls will be displaying and selling all kinds of vehicles including model cars, buses, trains and accessories, as well as collectable toys such as Lego and Thunderbirds.

Admission is £1.50 to adults and 60p to children.

Doors open at 10.30am.

#### Bowls club keen to boost membership

A BOWLS club is hoping to boost its membership. The Walsall Wood Outdoor Bowls Club is looking for people over the age of 55.

Summer matches are played at the bowling green at the back of Rushall Labour Club, in Lichfield Road. The club currently practices on Fridays between 9.30am and midday Call secretary Alan Paul on 07736 384290.

#### **Awards night** for volunteers

VOLUNTEERS will be recognised for their efforts in the community at a cer-emony. Walsall Voluntary Action highlights the work of people who make a dif-ference in the borough.

Nominations are being sought ahead of the ceremony at Holiday Inn, Wolverhampton Road West, on May 15. Visit the www.walsallva.org.uk website

#### Stamps fair due

A SELECTION of stamps and postcards will be dis-played during a fair next month. Sixteen dealers will be at the Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey on March 1 from 10am until 4.30pm.

# Borough named as among Europe's best for business

promising investment locations in Europe,

according to a new study.

FDi magazine, a Financial Times publication has cited the borough as seventh best region in Europe for business friendliness in the small city category, to the delight of Walsall business chiefs – appearing ahead of Oxford, Geneva in Switzerland and Skopje

#### Service for **pupils old** and new at church

PAST and present pupils of schools in a Midlands borough attended an annual church service to celebrate their achievements.

The annual Blue Coat Sunday service took place at St Matthew's Church in Walsall town centre.

It was attended by students from the infant and junior schools as well as the

junior schools as well as the secondary academy at the Blue Coat Academy. The Bishop of Wolverhampton,

Bishop of Wolverhampton, the Right Reverend Clive Gregory, led the service. Former pupils also attended as there was a reunion event. During the service, there were two dance performances by groups from the academy and the junior school. There was also a musical presentation by the infant school

was also a musical presenta-tion by the infant school choir and an exhibition of children's work.

Anthony Orlik, executive head, said: "The exhibition and church service provides a perfect opportunity to celebrate the educational provision and the amazing achievements of the Blue Coat children."

in Macedonia.

The Black Country's Local
Enterprise Partnership was
placed 10th with officials
recognising their expertise
in drawing finance, invest-

in drawing finance, investment and property development in the area.

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire also came in seventh for economic potential in the small European regions category, and eighth in small European regions overall.

The magazine assessed a mixture of data and expert opinion to rank European cities, towns and regions in

cities, towns and regions in categories including business friendliness, economic potential, cost-effectiveness, infrastructure, labour environment, and foreign investment strategy.

Walsall's regeneration chief, Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "Over \$40m of new investments have been generated in Walsall which is largely as a result of us cities, towns and regions in

is largely as a result of us working strategically and very closely with investors, supporting them through the planning process and identifying employment opportunities for local people."

portunities for local people."
And Wayne Langford,
head of Invest Black Country, added: "The Black
Country LEP is working to
improve the levels of investment. These awards, and
the fact that FDI has increased by 15 per cent over
the last year into the Black
Country is evidence that it Country is evidence that it is working."

# Fly-tipped rubbish goes up in flames



sall behind a row of houses. Image courtesy of Bloxwich Fire Station/Twitte

A LARGE pile of fly-tipped rubbish –
which included up to 60 tyres – went
up in flames, sending a thick plume of
smoke into the Black Country skyline.
Around 15 tons of rubbish, which
also included a range of furniture,
caught light on land next to a derelict
building in Webell

caught light on land next to a derenct building in Walsall.

The heavy smoke from the blaze in Bentley Mill Way spread towards the M6 and the Black Country Route at just after 4pm last Tuesday.

Two fire crews from Walsall, who could see the black smoke as they left

their town centre station, managed to put out the fire within 45 minutes. This managed to restrict the impact on rush-hour traffic using the main commuter routes as some smoke had started to spread. It was visible from Walsall town centre and Wednesbury. Firefighter David Brown said: "We left the station and turned onto Wol-

verhampton Road and you could see the smoke then. It was thick black

He added despite initial calls that the building was on fire, it was con-

tained to the rubbish. They remained at the scene for just over an hour. Among the rubbish which was on fire were a settee, cupboard, bed and sawdust. The fire did not spread to the neighbouring derelict building, which is believed to have previously been a

is believed to have previously been a restaurant It is not confirmed whether the

It is not confirmed whether the tyres and rubbish were deliberately set on fire. None of the trading businesses nearby, Cinammon Court and Chiq-uito restaurants, were affected.

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#### **NEWS FEATURE**



SO, the men's curling team failed to make gold at the Winter Olym-

pics.
Truth be told, I was a little sur prised, I would have thought if there was any sport the British should be good at, it would involve young men in orange jump suits sweeping up stones with a

Or Community Payback, as it sometimes known.

MALFUNCTIONING vending machines are right up there with pay-and-display car parks and automated telephone-answering services when it comes to the scourges of modern life.

Their operators rake in a for-

Ineir operators rake in a for-tune from poor unfortunate indi-viduals who put money into them for no reward, before meekly walking away having decided that a 60p bar of chocolate is not worth only to were over worth going to war over.

worth going to war over.
Raise a glass, then, to Afghan
war veteran Robert McKevitt,
who is clearly made of much
sterner stuff.
Feeling a snack gap during his
shift in a warehouse, he tried to
buy a Twix from his work's vending machine

buy a twix from his work's vend-ing machine.

The machine swallowed his money without delivering the goods, so showing commenda-ble restraint he put another coin in the slot.

Deciding that a more direct

approach was needed, he then took a forklift truck to the errant machine, allegedly dropping it six times onto the floor, even-

trually releasing three Twix bars from the dispenser.

He got the sack, of course, but he did get a free Twix for his trouble.And struck a blow for dis gruntled consumers everywhere 00000

NEXT time political commenta-NEXT time political commenta-tors start banging on about the poor turnouts at elections in this country, remember the car-nage that is taking place in the Ukraine at the moment and be grateful that the British are so splendidly indifferent.

The Ukraine is a country divided, split down the middle between those who want greater links with what remains of the old USSR, and those who seek closer ties with the European Union.

How people can get so worked.

How people can get so worked up over politics seems ridiculous to us in Britain. But of course, all we have to worry about is which band of London-centric, well-to-do liberal types get the ministe-rial limos for the next five years, so it is hard to get too excited one way or the other.

By comparison, the choices facing the people of the Ukraine

are stark indeed.

Half of the people seem to want to be ruled by an unelected, undemocratic empire which will suppress their liberty and stamp out their sovereignty.

And the other half want to be







# Chiefs in pledge: We have listened

**ADAM BURLING** reports on Walsall Council's cuts and the controversy they are likely to cause

"WE HAVE listened to what our residents wanted" - those were the words of council bosses as the full scale of £21 million

budget cuts were laid bare.
Chiefs in Walsallinsisted their final proposals – which have seen a number of controversial cost-cutting plans scrapped – was good news for the borough, with council tax frozen and libraries, leisure centres

frozen and libraries, leisure centres and day care centres staying open. But concerns have been raised that beneath the surface some services still face devastating cuts with £104m of savings needed in the next five years.

Some £6.82m will go from social care and health, £5.1m from children's services, £1.5m from leisure and culture, £1.69m from regeneration and transport, and £2.3m from resources.

#### Consultations

More than 1,300 people had a say on the budget plans in one of the biggest consultations ever held in the borough. And now chiefs say they have listened to the public's fears and taken action. Although some services have been saved from the axe the amount of money that needs to be saved has not changed – and critics say deep cuts will still have to be made. As part of the moves to slash council

to be made.

As part of the moves to slash council budgets, domiciliary care in people's homes – including visits from carers – is set to be cut to save £1m.

set to be cut to save £1m.

But bosses insist a 're-ablement' service which encourages them to be more independent will reduce demand.

And a subsidy to schools for school dinners would also be axed and schools could also be asked to pick up the tab for

SALL LIBRARY & MUSBUM

Walsall Museum - which was spared the axe following a public outcry

lollipop men and women at less riskier sites or risk the service being with-drawn, saving £85,000. The cost of a blue disabled parking badge would in-crease from £2 to £10, while short term crease from £2 to £10, while short term placements for residential care will be reduced to save £500,000. The council will also introduce 'personal budgets' into extra-care housing for older people to decide what services people need and how much they should be charged.

Chiefs say under the current system some are not being charged enough and others are getting care they do not require. The closure of the residential

unit at specialist mental health care home the Broadway North Resource Centre to save £100,000 is also going ahead despite opposition from service users. Libraries, including the borough's main facility in the town centre in Lichfield Street, will stay open but self service facilities are expected to save £2,000 a year.

Maintenance at cemeteries and play grounds will be cut to save £5,000 and £49,000 respectively.

Planned roadworks classed as 'low priority' will also be cancelled to boost coffers by £250,000 while the security

provided at car parks will even be reviewed to save £52,000. Among the services spared the axe is Walsall Museum which had been earmarked for closure to

save £70,000.

The move was scrapped after a consultation revealed the public did not sup-

The move was scrapped after a consup-port the plans. Councillors have said that the long term plan is to open a new heritage centre on one site which would bring together Walsall Museum, Leather Mu-seum and Walsall Local History Centre. They will now be looking to retain the museum until the new centre is opened. Councillor Ian Shires, portfolio holder for community engagement and volun-tary sector, said he was pleased that the council heeded a call for a major cam-paign to encourage people to have their say. He said: "Overall, we made changes to the budget proposals worth around £700,000 after listening to the views of our residents."

#### **Financial**

Financial

Democratic Labour councillor for Blakenall Pete Smith said he would vote against the budget and urged Labour opposition councillors to do the same. He said he was worried the council was 'putting off the inevitable' with potential savings of up to \$30m to be made the following financial year. He said: "These cuts will disproportionately hit those people towards the bottom of the ladder. "Cemeteries, parks, lollipop patrols—they are all being cut. You can't really blame Walsall Council—most of the blame must rest on the shoulders of the coalition Government."

But council leader Mike Bird argued: "This has not been easy and some tough decisions have been made. There's no escaping that. But we've worked to ring fence as much as we can the things that record to the state they most want us to

fence as much as we can the things that people tell us that they most want us to

people tell us that they most want us weep."

The authority, which currently has more than 6,300 workers on the payroll including school staff, will have to save £104m over the next five years to cope with cuts in Government funding.

# **THROUGH** THE YEARS

A PERTON mother-to-be had an amazing escape when her Mini was crushed beneath the wheels of an articulated lorry. While Lynn Pitt's car was severely damaged outside the Mermaid pub at Wightwick, the 26-year-old escaped with only cuts and bruises.

THERE was a new name in town for Black Country beer after Ansells announced lovers, after Ansells announced would be opening a new brew-ery in the area. The brewing gi-ant formed a new Black Country division called Holt, Plant and Deakin, and said it would be opening a small brewery at its Oldbury headquarters.

FORMER Wolves and England forward Jesse Pye died, aged 62. Pye, who starred alongside Billy Wright and Jimmy Mullen in the all-conquering Wolves sides of the 1950s, scored a hat-trick on his debut after signing for a fee of £10,000 in 1946. He also scored in the 1949 FA Cup final victory over Leicester City.

1994 WOLVERHAMPTON ground to a standstill as the area was hit by unexpected heavy snow. Even the police reduced their car

PRIME Minister John Major admitted he was bewildered by youngsters who bought expensive jeans and then tore holes in them during a visit to a fashion show in the West Midlands.

A ROW broke out after Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean finished a disappointing third at the Winter Olympics in Norway. Ten years earlier, the pair had wowed judges who awarded them a 100 per cent score, but this time they feiched behind the Pussion finished behind two Russian duos. A TV poll found that the public thought they had been robbed this time around.

robbed this time around. 2004 FAMILIES were lining the walls of their homes with tin foil and in-stalling mesh curtains over win-dows amid health fears over the number of mobile phone masts number of mobile phone masts in the Wolverhampton area. Adam and Nicola Wright, of Essington said they had stripped the wallpaper off the walls of their home and replaced it with foil to protect their children from what they believed were potentially dangerous emissions

WOLVES legend Bobby Ma-son unmasked an imposter of the same name who had been opening fetes and attending charity functions in his name. The pensioner had become a local celebrity by posing as the Tipton-born star, who played as inside forward during the club's glory years of the 1950s.

# Cloudy2Clear Windows Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in renairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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### **Waste centre of Black Country?**

IT is with great concern that I read that A abrasive particles, I fear that a similar situ-B Waste of Darlaston are applying for planation will now develop in Bloxwich.

There were continual complaints to the in Willenhall Lane, Bloxwich. The E&S council there, and for a time the situation

in Willenhall Lane, Bloxwich. The E&S recently quoted a similar application from B H Engineering Group to build a plant in Leamore Lane. Is Bloxwich to become the recycling centre for the Black Country?

The fact that there is dust fall out at James Bridge Cemetery proves that there is a dust problem that will now be transferred to Bloxwich. As I lived too many years in the 'fall out' area of a similar recycling plant in Coventry where we suffered from continual

council there, and for a time the situation would improve, but eventually the particles would start to appear again. This problem would not only be apparent close to the plant, but windblown particles would travel quite a distance, to surrounding districts. As the streets around Bloxwich are narrow and busy, the presence of several heavy lorries delivering and removing waste are going to cause even more problems.

G THOMAS, Bloxwich

#### Apology is too late to help now

REFERRING to the dread-REFERRING to the dread-ful plight of the people liv-ing on the Somerset Levels, what a catastrophic erro-leading to the situation. It could so easily have been prevented or at least less-ened with a bit of fore-thought.

Eric Pickles MP, Com-mity Secretary at last faced the "cameras and said "sorry". What an in-adequate word, especially when he went on to admit the Government had made

the Government had made a dreadful mistake by not

a dreadful mistake by not dredging the rivers many months ago.

Then it was announced that David Cameron admitted that they had been wrong not to do the work and pledge millions of pounds to put matters right. This was all in the name of saving the expense of carrying out the dredging operation.

ing out the dreuging opera-tion.

Admitting their error and offering apologies is of lit-tle help to the families who find their homesruined. All the heartache could possibly

have been prevented.

P POOLE, Willenhall

#### to the Editor

#### POST

Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES E-MAIL

Walsall @expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

# Divert cash to help victims of flooding

AFTER four weeks the Head of the Environment Agency, Lord Smith (on £100,000 a year for three days' work a week), decided to pay a visit to the flooded Somerset Levels to see the situation for himself. Then, not to be outdone, Cameron, Clegg and Miliband, jumped on the bandwagon as well.

It has now emerged that the non-dredging and clearing of the water-courses was due to the EU making us protect rare species in the

due to the EU making us protect rare species in the rivers, so nothing has been done for five years. Cameron promised that he would do "all he could", to provide money to assist in the relief effort, this amounting initially to less than £2,000,000.

it is from contingencies. Each and every day we send over to the EU £55,000,000

over to the EÜ £55,000,000 from our taxes, to say nothing of the Overseas Aid to countries richer than our own, and that amounts to billions annually as well. The consequential loss to the farmers, businesses and individual home owners, some of whom may not be covered by insurance, is horrific.

Lord Smith said that the relief money is not a bot-Lord Smith said that the relief money is not a bottomless pit, but the EU is a bottomless pit, we must stop trying to fill it before it is too late. Spend our money on sorting out our floods and defences, not Europe.

A SHEATH, Aldridge

#### More effort on the roads

IS our local police force

IS our local police force committed to cycle and pedestrian safety? Road casualties can and should be prevented, yet the justice system is failing to ensure safety on our roads.

In 2012 West Midlands Police had 276 traffic police officers representing just 3.5 per cent of all officers in the force, 36th out of 43 in the UK. How many of the 450 new officers will be allocated to road crime? to road crime?

to road crime?
What is needed to fight speeding and road crime is for the police to conduct high quality investigations of road traffic injuries and deaths. More people die and are seriously injured because of speeding motorists and inattentive drivers than due to terrorists. Improved road safety starts with improved investigations.

proved investigations.
CLLR D JAMES,
Walsall

#### Giraffe death is a tragedy

I READ with disbelief that once again the human race has shown complete disregard for the life of an amazingly beautiful young animal.

I refer to the killing of the baby giraffe Marius at Copenhagen zoo. How anyone with an ounce of compassion could murder such passion could murder such a lovely creature because it was surplus to requirements beggars belief even though several organisations of-fered it a home. I also cannot believe that

the kill took place in front of very young children, some that looked as young as

three or four.

I HUNTER, Willenhall

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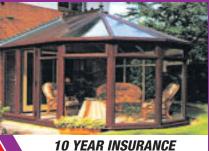


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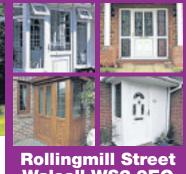


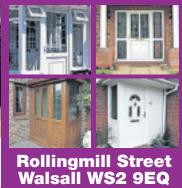


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# Witnesses tell of horrific moments after collision

tragic crash have told how they rushed to the wrecked and desperately tried to help, as neighbours paid tribute to the schoolgirl who died. Natasha Whale, aged 13, was killed

when the car in which she was trav-elling was in collision with a school coach in Valley Road on Monday

coacn in valley Road on Monday morning. Her mother Shelley, aged 45, re-mained in a critical condition but 17-year-old brother Callum, who was also in the car, has been released from besnital

also in the car, nas because hospital.

Jackie Simkiss, aged 47, was one of the first on the scene and had desperately tried to help the three injured occupants of the Renault Clio. After the injury open should be the unconstitution of the renault of the triangle of the renault of the renau

occupants of the Renault Clio. After dialling 999 she tended to the unconscious woman driver, held the hand of the seriously injured schoolboy – and tried to help the girl.

Mother-of-one Jackie said: "The 999 woman asked me what I could see. I saw a lady in the driver's seat and a boy in the passenger's seat. I touched the lady but she wasn't talking.

#### Demolishing

Demolishing
"The 999 woman told me to lift her head back to help her airways. The 999 lady asked about the boy and I said he was talking. I talked to the boy and he kept saying 'I'm going to die, I'm going to die,' "I told him he wasn't and that the ambulance was on its way and it would be fine. I touched his head, I told him to keep still and held his hand.' Walsall College cleaner Jackie had also tried to help the schoolgirl, who had been sitting in the back of the carbot but she was later declared dead at the scene. After the collision the coach came to rest in the front garden of a house, demolishing the wall.

Heidi Salt, aged 39, a relative of the elderly female householder, said. "She was in the kitchen fixing breakfast when she heard a bang, but at first



thought her next door neighbour had dropped something.
"But when she looked out of the front window she saw the coach in her garden. She was very shaken up at first, but a neighbour asked the police officers to check on her which they did to reassure her. We feel it's a bad junction as lot of drivers barely stop

thought her next door neighbour had at the give way line before crossing or

at the give way line before crossing or they just drive over without stopping. Something needs to be done."

One householder described how she arrived at the scene shortly after the tragedy. "Everyone round here is in shock," she said. One neighbour said the children were 'polite and well brought up'.

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# **Marathon man to run** in mother's memory

trainers to pay tribute to his mother who died last year after suffering from pulmonary fibrosis.

Kevin Broome is running the London Marathon on April 13 to raise money for the British Lung Foundation. The 34-year-old from Darlaston is halfway to raising his

Darlaston is halfway to raising his £2,000 target for the charity.
Judy Broome, who lived in Highley, near Bridgnorth in Shropshire, died last year aged 56 after a four-year battle with pulmonary fibrosis, which is the formation or development of excess fibrous connective tissue in the lungs. It is also described as 'scarring of the lung'.
For the last 12 months of her life Judy was on oxygen 24 hours a day.

For the last 12 months of her life Judy was on oxygen 24 hours a day. Her son, who will be running in a T-shirt bearing her name, said: "In my mind this is the last thing I can do for my mum."

#### Leaner

As well as gaining sponsors, the fa-ther-of-one has been losing pounds. Since he started training just before Christmas at almost 18 stone, he has dropped 151b in weight and is feeling leaver and fitter. er and fitter.

"My times have improved since I lost weight and I feel a lot healthier," he said. "I run a little bit anyway and have done a half-marathon in the past but nothing like this distance. I'm now training two or three times a week. I'm just looking to finish the marathon in under six hours.."

Mr Broome, of Victoria Mews, said he has been supported by his work-mates at The Insert Company in Dar-laston and fellow members of Aldridge



Getting ready to run the London marathon, Kevin Broome, of Darlaston

Running Club. He said: "There's a lot

Running Club. He said: "There's a lot of running in the rain. It's a bit daunting when you set out but I'm used to getting soaked now.
"If it will help people like my mum, that's what it's all about. I know that she will be proud of me as I run, jog, walk and crawl my way around 26.2 miles of our capital city."

To support Kevin, go to www.justgiving.com/Kevin-Broome1

giving.com/kevin-broomei.
Meanwhile, anyone who wants to find out more about the work of the British Lung Foundation, or who might be concerned about any issues to do with lung health, please contact the charity's helpline on 03000 030 555





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# **Senior coroner to leave** after decades of service

Black Country as its coroner for more than 40 years has announced his retirement.

announced his retirement.
Robin Balmain first began investigating deaths in 1972.
But he has announced that he will retire from his current position as senior coroner for the Black Country in September. He said it has been a 'great honour' to serve the area.
Mr Balmain, who is based at Smethwick Council House, first became the assistant deputy coroner for the area then known as Sandwell North, covering West Bromwich, in 1972, working part time while he continued in his role as a solicitor with Lyon Clark.
He later became deputy coroner for that area, before becoming coroner for Sandwell in 2000, after Sandwell North had been merged with Sandwell South, which covered Smethwick.

Jurisdiction

#### Jurisdiction

He then became the first Black Country coroner in 2005, covering Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall. Wolverhampton was added to his remit in January 2012, meaning he has covered one of the largest coronial areas in the UK. He is responsible for ascertaining the cause of any sudden or suspicious deaths. During 2012, the last year for which statistics are available, more than 4,000 deaths were reported to Mr Balmain, and he carried out 520 inquests.

inquests. Mr Balmain said: "It has been a

Mr Balmain said: "It has been a great honour to serve as the first coroner for the Black Country jurisdiction. "I am grateful for the support of all those I deal with and in particular Councillor Mahboob Hussain of Sandwell Council. I look forward to working with my successor to achieve a smooth handover." Sandwell Council is in charge of the coroner's office and in conjunction



Black Country Coroner Mr Robin Balmain who is stepping down

with the Chief Coroner and Black

with the Chief Coroner and Black Country partners, will now start the process of appointing a new coroner. Councillor Hussain, deputy leader of Sandwell Council, added: "I should like to add my personal thanks to those of many people for the sensitive and caring service Mr Balmain has provided to the bereaved of all our bor-

oughs. He has always gone the extra mile to help the community even when occasionally we have had to call on him and his staff out of hours. "He and his staff have shown real commitment and have made a big dif-ference. We will be taking this oppor-tunity to build on the excellent service Mr Balmain has developed."

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# HS2 fears on rail services

AN ANTI-HS2 campaign group is claiming existing intercity services would be cut if the controversial rail line goes ahead.

National campaign group HS2 Action Alliance has said a detailed analysis of a recent Government business case for the scheme reveals some services between Bir. scheme reveals some services between Bir-mingham and London could be cut if the new line is built. But the Department for Transport has said no decisions on any future services have yet been taken.
HS2 Action Alliance claims people travel-

ling from stations like Erdington into New Street will face longer journey times to Lon-don, as HS2 trains will serve Curzon Street station rather than New Street. The group has also said they believe jour-ney times between Birmingham New Street

and Birmingham International to London will be five minutes longer, with one service fewer per hour than at present, with one extra stop. It is also asking Birmingham City Council to consider its position on the Government's plans.

# Campaigners launch waste scheme fight

A CAMPAIGN has been stepped up against plans to relocate a controversial waste company that came under fire for using two sites illegally - with a committee set up to fight the proposals and hun-

dreds of signatures added to a petition.

Around 100 people attended two campaign meetings to voice their fears over plans lodged by AB Waste in Darlaston to open a tip on a vacant industrial site in Willenhall Lane, Bloxwich. A committee of around 10 residents has now been formed to take a lead on fighting the proposals and a petition has gathered more than 200 signatures.
Objections have been voiced about potential noise issues, traffic concerns and fears that it will create unpleasant smells.
The committee met on Friday to discuss a plan of action on fighting the proposals.

# Arson attack destroys van parked at house



Arson - the burnt-out van in Argyle Road, Walsall

A VAN was destroyed in an arson attack at a house in a quiet residential street in the Black Country.

Fire crews say it was lucky the blaze didn't spread to the home in Argyle Road, Walsall, at 1.40am on Saturday. West Midlands Police have now launched and investigation into the fire and are treating it as arson.

At the time the house's occupant, Mr Ranjit Singh aged 34, was asleep upstairs with his wife Meena Rani Kaur and these shellighers used in 10 and 12 robes house nathers here.

three children aged six, 10 and 13 when he was woken by the van's alarm.

the van's alarm.

He and a neighbour were woken up by the van's alarm sounding. When they investigated the noise they discovered the vehicle, a Vauxhall Movano, was on fire. The vehicle was completely destroyed by the blaze. Mr Singh, who has lived there for six years, said he was shocked as it was normally a quiet road with 'no trouble'. He owns the van and is employed as a driver by delivery firm ipostparcels.com.

# for details on 01922 621148 **Government blamed** over money worries

FUCHSIAS will be the fo-FUCHSIAS will be the focus of the next meeting of Streetly horticultural Society. Guest speaker Pat Rogers will present the talk on March 4.

The following month, on April 1, Brian White will give a presentation called 'Pelargoniums'.

The Society meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Streetly Community Centre, in Foley Road East, Streetly from 7.45pm to 9.15pm. worse cuts to come

**Fuschias** 

on agenda

For more information, call 0121 353 1437.

WALSALL Council's finance chief has blamed Government funding cuts for the authority's money woes – and insisted the public still gets value for money. The council has to save £104m over five years and there are fears there are

over a triorin over five years and there are least unter a tew worse cuts to come.

Opposition councillors have accused bosses of merely delaying more serious cuts for the coming years.

But Councillor Chris Towe, cabinet member for resources, said the authority was bound by the money it received from the Government.

Total Government grants for the council have fallen from £169.1m in 2012/13 to £146.9m for 2014/15 and a predicted £125.35m the year after. He said: "We're working hard to make Walsall a better place. As our funding from Government continues to decrease we will have fewer staff therefore we will be able to do less, but we will make sure that we do the best with what we have got.

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posals. Matt Ward, who is chair

man of the committee, said:

"People are angry that there has been a lack of consulta-

has been a lack of consulta-tion.

"They are worried about the noise. They have been told about the smells coming from the existing plant. Peo-ple are worried about possi-ble infestations with rats. The residents do not want this in their back garden.

"There have been two meetings held about this and we have formed a cam-paign committee to discuss ways we can fight it.
There were about 100

ways we can fight it.

There were about 100 people altogether at the meetings. We are planning a protest when it gets to the planning meeting." Councillors Ann Young and Tina Jukes are both supporting the campaign.

AB Waste, in Darlaston, came under fire more than a year ago for illegally using two sites. It was also criticised by mourners who said dust from the site was settling on headstones at

settling on headstones at James Bridge Cemetery. AB Waste declined to comment

**Walkers head out** 

THE Walsall group of the ramblers will be heading to

Alveley, near Bridgnorth, for a nine-mile walk on Sun-day. It will be a mainly level

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# Cash help for group to support

losing a leg and wanted to speak with others who had suffered a similar fate.

But grandfather-of-nine Paul Felton could not find the support he needed close by and set about form-ing a group to provide a network of help and advice. It was last summer when the idea of the West Mid-lands Amputee Support Group started to fully come

to fruition.

The 56 year-old has now secured £9,900 from Awards

secured £9,900 from Awards For All to help set up a proper office with a com-puter for people to access any information they need. It comes after they re-ceived £3,200 form Walsall Housing Group and were also given donations from the area's police community support officers.

#### Support

The group for people who have lost limbs and also for their families meets at its base in Darlaston All Active, Willenhall Road, on Wednesdays between 9.30am and 2pm.

There are more than half-a-dozen regular amputees aged from their 30s to 70s who attend.

The doors are open to

The doors are open to new people who can receive support when they might be feeling low or who to turn to if they need any transport

#### by Craig Hughes

or assistance with home im

or assistance with home improvements.

Mr Felton said they were committed to helping others.

"With an amputee they can talk to doctors but you find the best thing you can do is talk to another amputee," he said.

"When they talk to other people and other members of the group it is an inspiration for them.

"The support group is not just for the amputees but their families as well."

Mr Felton from Willenhall had his leg amputated

Mr Felton from Willenhall had his leg amputated below the left knee in February last year.

His ankle was crushed in a fall in April 2011 and multiple infections prevented it from heeling.

For more information about the group visit the amputeesupport.co.uk website or call 0121 568 6144.

# Icing on the cakes for uni charity bid



With some of the cakes they helped to bake for the university charity cake sale are sisters Isolabella and Ruby Marson

sity charity cake sale are sisters Isolabella and Huby Marson FEW can describe university as a piece of cake but for some students it was just that. Fourteen undergraduates from the University of Wolverhampton braved the cold to raise cash for charity by selling cupcakes. Students from the Leisure Industries Department carried out the sale at the university's City and Walsall campuses in aid of the Prince's Trust. The sale saw 500 cupcakes sold raising £500 for the charity. Natasha Marson, aged 39, from Wombourne is a student and was out with her children Isolabella aged 10 and Ruby, eight.

#### Pictures in the frame

A SERIES of pictures will go on show and a lecture has been lined up for a meeting of the Walsall Photographic Society next week. Geoff Stone, senior fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, will be displaying his work and giving a lecture at Leamore's Forest Arts Centre on Monday from 7.30pm. Admission is £2 and visitors are welcome.

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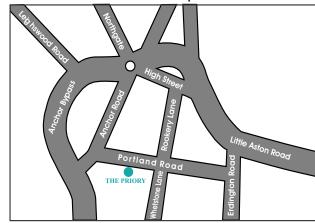
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#### **NEWS**

### Banished bunnies need a new home



Alice Carruthers from Jollyes petfood superstore in Willenhall with two of the four rabbits left outside the shop

Milenhall with two of the four rabbits left outside the shop FOUR rabbits that were dumped in a hutch outside a pet food shop in Willenhall are looking for new homes. Staff at Jollyes discovered the animals inside two boxes that had been put in a display hutch outside the store at Keyway Retail Park, in Armstrong Way, on Sunday. The angora-cross rabbits are estimated to be around eight-weeks-old. Store manager Simon Woodfield said the animals had been taken home and fed by a member of staff but were looking for new homes. He said: "We have a display hutch outside the store and a member of the public said they had seen someone acting suspiciously around there on Sunday morning. There were two boxes that had been placed in the hutch, each with two rabbits inside. "We were partly disgusted and upset that someone could dump them here. They could have gone undiscovered. But we are also relieved that they did it to us because we have food and hay. "They are very, very good. One is a little bit flighty so I would recommend that it does not go to a home with children, but the other three are very calm. Nothing like this has happened since I've been working here but many years ago someone did drop off a rucksack full of around 25 rats." Anyone interested in adopting a rabbit can call 01902 609888 or email willenhall@jollyes.co.uk

# Tower set to become homes in new plans

A PROMINENT high-rise office block in a Black Country town centre could be converted into flats, under new plans.

ed into flats, under new plans.

Eleven floors of Tameway Tower in Walsall town centre are earmarked to be converted into 100 flats and studio apartments.

Walsall Estates Ltd has lodged the plans to convert the L-shaped second to 12th floors of the building in Bridge Street.

Internal remodelling mould create nine flats on most floors and offices, shop and restaurant units on other floors would not be affected under the plans.

A report, lodged with the planning application, reads: "The proposal provides 10 floors of nine flats per floor plus one floor of eight flats and two studio apartments to give a total of 100 residential units.

"It seeks to have no impact on the external appearance of the existing building. "The new flats are contained within the existing building form and use the existing window openings to generate the basis for the internal layout. The principle of the development is to provide a range of unit sizes from one person, two bed Eleven floors of Tameway Tower in Walsall town

# **Enthusiasm for show is** not in question at hall



ran broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby before the recording of Any Questions at Central Hall in Walsall

IMMIGRATION, bedroom tax

Duffy, party director of UKIP, and actress and singer Pauline Black. Tempores discussed when the BBC Radio 4 programme Any by onlookers in the packed out hall for Questions? came to Walsall.

The show, which is chaired by

The show, which is chaired by veteran broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby, was aired from Walsall's Central Hall Methodist Church.
People had the chance to challenge a panel of speakers about popular issues. Last night's show featured farming minister, George Eustince, Labour MP for Leicester East, Keith Vaz, Lisa

by onlookers in the packed out hall for defending the Government's response. Mr Vaz was quick to attack the Government about its handling of the floods saying people had been left in 'appaling condtions.' But it was Miss Duffy who caused the most controversy after saying the Government should spend less on projects abroad. She said: "There are projects such as the Pakistani educational network system that the Government is spending £300 million on. We have

got a disaster here at home and that project could be put on hold while the money is spent on flood defences." While some audience members applauded, there were others who booed. Other topics of the night included the bedroom tax. One Walsall resident asked the panel for their views on the relief of the delaying the part of the panel for their views on the relief of the delaying the panel for the panel fo policy after declaring only four cent of houses in Walsall have

bedroom.

Mr Dimbleby said the people of Walsall had asked some 'great questions.'
He added: "The audience were very
warm and welcoming and engaged in
a good debate. We even had some hecklers which I love."

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#### **NEWS**

# Unknown soldier mystery is solved



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AN unknown soldier, whose picture was found during a clear-out at a Great Wyrley home has been identified.

Doreen Cornock recognised the man in uniform as her uncle Tom

man in uniform as her uncle Tom Wootton.
Great Wyrley Local History Society had appealed for help after the soldier could not be identified. The picture was discovered in the attic of Thomas Parson's home in the village. None of the family recognised the subject, but, thanks to Mrs Cornock, nee Dunn, it turned out it to be her uncle, Mr Parson's cousies.

Mr Wootton was born in 1895 to Tom and Ruth Wootton in Great



Tom Wootton as a showground worker

Wyrley. In the 1911 census Tom was 16-years-old and an edge tool maker.

16-years-old and an edge tool maker.
At the onset of the First World War,
Tom, his brother jack and their cousin
enlisted in the Medical Corps.
A History Society spokesman said:
"They were strong Primitive Methodists and would not bear arms. This
is the uniform Tom is wearing in the

#### Friends

Taking up the story, she added: "In Taking up the story, she added: In 1925 Tom emigrated to Australia. He sailed from London aboard the Ormond. Although a trained blacksmith he was hoping to farm, but the land he was allocated was of very poor quality, so he decided to make for Perth. He



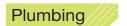
met many Aborigines on his way, making friends and working with them.
"Eventually he arrived in Perth and took a job as a supervisor in the Royal Showground, Claremont. Tom was a qualified judge of pedigree cats and rabbits."

rabbits."
While in Australia, Tom married Annie, who had emigrated to Australia with her parents as a child. His wife had two children from her first marriage, to a soldier who had been killed in the war. They had no children of their own.

Tom lived until his late 60s but died in an 'accident' with a shot gun. It was thought he was climbing over a fence when he tripped and fell and the gun fired, killing him instantly.

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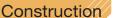


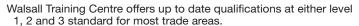












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# **Talented Jenni finds** TV show sew intense

SHE caught the sewing bug less than two years ago after making her own wedding

And now Walsall's Jenni Taylor can be seen on TV battling it out on the new series of The Great British Sewing Bee.

She has her husband Kirk to thank for that, after he sent in an application to the show's producers without telling her.

telling her.

telling her.

"We were hooked on the first series.

Then I had a random call out of the blue one day to say I'd got through to the audition stages. Next thing I know I'm filming for the show in London."

Jenni said working under the watchful eyes of judges May Martin and Patrick Grant was a 'privilege'.

She added: "Being on the show was very intense. It really was the best. I was surrounded by so many talented people. They had years more experience than me. ence than me.

Creative

Creative
Treative
Tre

She continued: "I wanted to make my wedding dress myself. I couldn't find a dress I liked anywhere. You don't need lots of money to get the perfect dress. I made it out of organza and paper lac."

As well as sewing, Jenni, who is originally from West Bromwich, also sings in a band called Snooty Bobs with Kirk, 33, and six others. She

watched the opening episode of the



Jenni gets to work on a latest creation





Jenni singing with the Snooty Bobs

Great British Sewing Bee with 20 or so of her friends and family at Hockley Street Studios in Birmingham on a big She added: "I have kept in contact with a lot of the guys from the show. Claudia was awesome.
"She was mental but we needed that when the pressure was on." So has she



With Kirk in her crafted wedding dress

got the competition all sewn up? "I can't say how well I did, you'll have to watch," she added.

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#### **NEWS**

# Childcare expert's honour

THE founder of a nursery chain has received an honorary university doctorate. Thirty years after opening his first nursery, John Woodward, founding member of Busy Bees childcare, was awarded with an honorary doctorate at a Birmingham City University on Monday.

Born in Walsall, he started his career almost 40 years ago as a school teacher. He started by opening his own day care nursery in 1983 in Lichfield. Now the largest childcare provider in the country, Busy Bees operates 213 nurseries throughout the UK and employs over 7,000 staff.

# Teen thug in gang of muggers is locked up

group of young people near a library has been locked up for three years.

Teenager Shabir Khan was one of a gang of four robbers looking for trouble and turning violent after harassing girls on the steps of a library. Two male victims in the group were kicked and punched. One was kicked unconscious and robbed of cash and a

was kicked unconscious at mobile phone.

Meanwhile his friend had an iPod taken, while another was left bleeding from the ears from kicks.

Three of the gang were jailed by a judge last August, but the fourth, Khan, was given a longer transf gust, but the fourth, Khan, was given a longer term of detention because he tried to deny it. Khan, now aged 18, of Bloxwich Road, Walsall eventually admitted two charges of robbery and one of attempted robbery over the incident outside Burton Library.

Judge Michael Elsom told him: "You know what the likely sentence is going to be . . . those who set about people in the street and rob them must expect long sentences."

Considerable

#### Considerable

Of the other robbers, Anees Hanif, aged 19, of Norfolk Road, Burton and Junaid Ali, also 19, of Shob-Junaid Ali, also 19, of Shob-nall Street, Burton were each sent to youth custody for 32 months, while Hamad Yaqoob, aged 17, of Shobnall Street got two years deten-tion. All pleaded guilty at the first opportunity.

the first opportunity.

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, told Stafford Crown
Court that when a male member of the group told the gang to clear off, they turned violent. "Without warning he was kicked full in the face with consideraby Simon Stone

his head banging against the wall," he said. One man handed over his £400 phone and wallet which contained £30 in cash. The money was taken out and the wallet flung back at him. A woman was not manhandled, but her iPod was stolen, while another man was punched and kicked to the head and spine, leaving one of his ears bleeding internally.

Mr Spratt said Khan played a significant role in the robberies, delivering at least one of the kicks and gesturing to people to hand

least one of the kicks and over their goods. When questioned after arrest Khan made no comment, even after being shown CCTV footage.

Police had to use facial recognition technology to identify him. His mobile phone also showed he had travelled from Walsall to Burton the night of the roberies, January 4 last year.

Burton the night of the rob-beries, January 4 last year. Mr Dean Kershaw, de-fending, said: "A large amount of alcohol had been taken – three bottles of vodka between the four of them, so one can imagine the state they must have been in." Khan was not party to the initial violence, but joined in after about a minute, he added.

# From tunes to tongs as shop set for revamp

A LANDMARK former Midland music shop, which closed in 2012, is to reopen as a hair and beauty salon, creating six jobs.

Musically Yours in Walsall Road closed as a victim of the recession after trading for almost 30 years.

Workmen are currently refurbishing the building before it opens as Crayg

before it opens as Crayg Ward, a hair and beauty salon, on March 9. Hednesford North Coun-

cillor Sheila Cartwright will cut the ribbon. Mr Ward, who is 23 and

Mr Ward, who is 23 and has been a hairdresser for the past eight years, said: "We're spending about £40,000 on refurbishing the building and turning into a

hair and beauty salon. My parents bought the shop as a long-term investment." Mr Ward said there would

Mr Ward said there would be six members of staff in total working at the salon. The popular music shop closed in May 2012. Hundreds queued to bag a bargain when the store sold off its old stock at bargain prices.

Musically Yours had been trading for 28 years before it shut, with bosses blaming the recession for a decline in trade. A clearance sale of

in trade. A clearance sale of its stock took place with up to 75 per cent off all retail

prices.

They included guitars, ukuleles, violins, drums, cymbals and other percussion instruments.



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# Proud return back to church plaque by son



William Platt with the plaque featuring his father's name at St Matthew's.

VISITORS to St Matthew's Parish Church, Walsall, were given a rare opportunity to see for themselves the crypt of the church which dates back to 1120 AD to when the site was Roman Catholic.

A particular feature of the 900-year-old crypt at the town centre church, is a supposedly interior window which is in fact an exterior window of the original before an extension was added.

Among the visitors was octoge-

narian and former chorister William Gordon Platt whose father William Henry Platt and uncle Victor Platt are remembered by plaques in the choir area. He had come with good friends because he was 'proud to show them what a beautiful place it is.'

Also available to visitors to the building in Saint Matthew's Close was an opportunity to see the interior workings of the clock, and an opportunity to ring one of the church bells. Preparations are underway at the

Preparations are underway at the church for the start of Lent next week and the Ash Wednesday Communion and Imposition of Ashes, which takes place at 7.30pm on Wednesday.







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#### MEMORY LANE





Children in the Sunday school seen from about 1948



The original chapel and Sunday School from 1851

# church after more than 160 years

has been a focal point of the community for more than 160 years bowed out with a celebration service after being forced to close its doors due to a dwindling congregation and rising running

New Invention Methodist Church

was set up in the 1840s with the first meetings held in cottages.

The original chapel was built in Lichfield Road in 1851, but as attendance grew the existing red brick building on the opposite side of the road opened for worship in 1898. Despite the sadness of closing down

by more than 130 people to celebrate its ministry in the community for well over a

ministry in the collection of the Sunday school was 60-children strong with sports, Bible quizzes and uniformed activities a popular draw. Church member Brian Cadman explains:

g Test at The

by Deb Hardiman

Methodists say fond farewell to

"Over the last 10 years the church has considered many proposals for future development and a means of continuing on the site but in the end the church council took the decision to close – defeated by a rapidly declining and ageing congregation and increasing financial burdens.

"The council recognised that a regular congregation of on average 20 could not produce the £500 plus per week needed to keep the church open, pay the bills, maintain the building and plan developments making it fit for the 21st century.

"The church itself was in need of rewiring, new heating and had some dry rot problems and the organ needed a £20,000 "Over the last 10 years the church has con-

problems and the organ needed a £20,000 storation.

restoration.

"The main church building has not been used for worship for more than two years as the heating system was old, inefficient and unreliable, and could not be used for the final service because of these problems."

Despite ups and downs regular activities had included a Sunday School, Boys and

Girls Brigade meetings, Zumba and yoga clubs, table tennis group and a senior citizens' luncheon club.

The hall was wrecked in an arson attack in April 1989 and at the time members launched a successful £100,000 appeal to reabild it.

rebuild it.

Mr Cadman added: "The fire damaged about two-thirds of the Sunday school

"The interior was all destroyed included the doors and the roof.

#### Sadness

It took around two years for the congregation to raise the £100,000 needed to rebuild it. Letters were written to local business appealing for donations and fund-

raising events were held at the church.
"The closure of the church has been "The closure of the church has been greeted with sadness and some criticism—mainly from sources who do not appreciate the huge costs in maintaining a large site, but it is true to say that a small team of dedicated members have worked trielessly to raise money just to keep going," Mr Cad-

man added. They are now attending other Methodist churches in Essington, Bloxwich and Short Heath after closing at the end of last year.

A two-day celebration featured a well attended exhibition of memorabilia and photographs of the church's history followed by the final service.

Memorabilia include a cup and saucer set from when the church first opened in the 1800s. A trowel used to lay the foundation stone at the church was also included in the display, as well as photographs charting the history of the Boys Brigade group that met at the church.

In 2010 the church was targeted by metal thieves three times in the space of as many months, leaving members having to fork out hundreds of pounds in repairs.

The church had to spend £600 in roof repairs after lead was plundered from the main hall and storage buildings in the grounds in one attack.

grounds in one attack.

The costly repairs came at a bad time for

the church as it was trying to raise £5,000 for a new central heating system.

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TICKETS are on sale
for a concert marking St
George's Day at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on
April 19.
The event is organised
by the Birmingham St
George's Day Association.
Comedians Don Maclean
and Malcom Stent are on
the bill with a mystery
guest. Also performing will
be Birmingham Community Gospel Choir, Sovereign Brass, the group Quill,
a local choir and school
children. Money raised will
go to Troop Aid.
The concert takes place
between 6pm and 9pm.

The concert takes place between 6pm and 9pm. Tickets are priced between £5 and £18.

Tickets can be bought at Birmingham Town Hall or Symphony Hall box office, by calling 0121 345 0603 or by visiting the www.thsh. co.uk website.

#### Neds top bill at indie all-dayer

EXPECT the return of the mosh pit, spilt pints and crowd surfing when Black Country rock leg-ends Ned's Atomic Dustbin

ends Ned's Atomic Dustbin top the bill at the Gigantic Classic Indie All-Dayer at Manchester Academy on Bank Holiday Monday, May 24.

Also on the bill will be one of the late John Peel's favourite bands The Wedding Present, Manchester's own The Chameleons, Yorshire's Cud, and Irish outfits The Sultans of Ping and The Frank And Walters.

Tickets for the 10-hour party cost £25. See www. manchesteracademy.net for further information.

# Sky's the limit for lan who returns as Galileo in classic

# Fame, it's gonna live forever

LEGWARMERS, jumps and poignant mo-ments at the piano — it can only mean Fame.

Back in 1980 British director Alan Parker's movie about the tribulations and triumphs of young hopeful students at New York High School of Performing Arts school of Performing Arts was a surprise hit, spawn-ing a hit TV series and a 2009 movie remake. Musical It also led to Fame The

Musical, an international Musical, an international theatre hit which had a West End run and toured the UK, featuring the famous title song and such numbers as Hard Work, Let's Play A Love Scen and Think Of Meryl Streep.

The latest UK touring revival brings matters up

revival brings matters up to date by setting the story in 2014 when it arrives at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Monday for a  $\begin{array}{ll} {\rm six\text{-}day} \ {\rm run} \ - \ {\rm so} \ {\rm expect} \\ {\rm lots} \ {\rm of} \ {\rm dynamic} \ {\rm dancing} \ {\rm but} \end{array}$ fewer dodgy perms.



A scene from the new version of Fame The Musical, being staged in Wolverhampton

THE rational versus the superstitious science versus the church, a conflict down the ages that still resonates today is the subject of Birmingham Rep artistic director's new staging of A Life Of Galileo.

praise when staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford and will again feature Ian McDiarmid in the ti-

lan McDiarmid in the ti-tle role.

It looks at the pioneering
Italian scientist's clash with
the Roman Catholic Church
in the early 17th Century
over his assertion that the Earth orbits the Sun

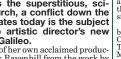
Earth orbits the Sun.
The play, staged at The
Rep from tomorrow night
to March 8, is presented
as part of a Brecht season
at the Centenary Square
venue.

at the Centenary Square venue.

The anarchic world of children's TV in the past (think Tiswas and Going Live) is the inspiration for Told By An Idiot's Never Try This At Home at The Rep's Studio from tonight to March 15.

At the theatre's third space, The Door, London Soho Theatre's darkly comic romance Blink, by Phil Porter, is being staged from Monday to Wednesday.

Before Fame The Musical leaps onto the stage, Wol-



This is a rapid revival of her own acclaimed produc-tion, translated by Mark Ravenhill from the work by Marxist German playwright Bertolt Brecht. It won



Ian McDiarmid as Galileo

lan McDiarmid as Galileo verhampton Grand hosts English Touring Theatre's passionate Eternal Love, the story of the 12th century romance between philosopher and student, Abelard and Heloise, through to Saturday. The lovers are played by real-life couple David Sturzaker and Jo Herbert.
Rod Stewart musical Tonight's The Night is at the New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday. The Birmingham venue then hosts 1700s Scottish adventure Kidnapped on Monday night and Tuesday afternoon.

#### Concert will be a tale of two cellos

"THEY say the cello is the "THEY say the cello is the closest instrument to the human voice. With 'A Tale of Two Cellos' we wanted to sing together in a universal language so that we could share this beautiful music, which spans nearly five hundred years, with everyone." So say husband and wife cello duo Julian and Jiaxin Lloyd Webber of their latest album for classical label Naxos.

The famous cellists will be performing together at

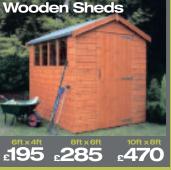
The famous cellists will be performing together at Cannock's Prince of Wales Theatre on Thursday, March 13, as part of a UK tour. There will be premiere duets for two cellos with piano as well as music by Vivaldi, Bach, Rachmaninov and Saint-Saëns.

The concert is at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18. Call 01543 578762 or visit www. wlct.org/cannock/theatre/

#### Award-winning folk duo at cafe

folk duo at cafe
WINNERS of the best duo
at this year's Radio2 Folk
Awards, Phillip Henry and
Hannah Martin, are heading to Birmingham.
They will be coming fresh
from their award-winning
appearance at the Royal
Albert Hall to play at the
Kitchen Garden Cafe in
Kings Heath on March 30
at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8
in advance or £10 on the
door. The West Country
pair have made a fantastic
leap considering that not so
long ago they were found
by Steve Knightley of
Show of Hands, busking on
Sidmouth seafront as part
of the town's folk festival.
Visit www.kitchengarden
cafe.co.uk.





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#### What's On!

#### **SATURDAY'S TV** 1.03.14

#### CHOICE



Will.i.am

The Voice UK BBC1, 7pm The blind auditions are complete and the coaches have chosen 12 acts each Now begins the process of Now begins the process of whittling them down by half for the live shows – and that means the return of the battle rounds. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes host as the coaches are joined by four advisers – Scissor Sisters frontman Scissor Sisters frontman
Jake Shears, singer Katy B,
award-winning rapper Tinie
Tempah and Black Eyed
Peas founder Dante
Santiago – who give the acts the benefit of their experience, before pitting them against each other in head-to-head musical

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. 10.00 Saturday Sportsday. 11.50 Cycling. 2.45 Sargain Hunt. (R) 3.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Final Score. 5.10 Reflex. 5.55 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 6.15 Pointless Celebrities. Janice Long, Graham Cole and Edde The Eagler Long Graham Cole and Edde The Eagler Long Graham Cole and Edde quiz. Last in the series. (R) 7.00 The Voice UK. The battle rounds begin as the coaches enlist four advisers — Jake Shears, Kay B, Tinie Tempah and Dante Santiago — and pit the sing-offs. 9.10 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Rosilin reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball. 9.20 Casualty, Robyn injures persell after confronting as the coaches and the Casualty, Robyn injures persell after confronting as the coaches and the Thunderball. 9.20 Casualty, Robyn injures persell after confronting as the c

- Casualty. Robyn injures herself after confronting an intruder in her home, and Lily shows her softer side while treating a heavily pregnant woman in severe

pain.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day, Gary
Lineker presents highlights
of the latest Premier League
ashes, which included
Finance Cottage; National Lottery
Update.

- 11.45 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.

  1.05 Weatherview. 1.10 BBC New

6.00 This is BBC Two 6.15 Film:
Julies Verne's Rocket to the Moon.
(1967) 8.10 Life on Earth, (R) 9.05
Life on Earth, (R) 10.00 Andrew
Marr's The Making of Modern
Britain, (R) 11.00 Fred Dibnah's
Made in Britain, (R) 11.30 Great
British Railway Journeys, (R)
Comforts, 12.30 Talking Pictures.
1.10 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
(1938) 2.45 Final Score, (R) 5.15
Read Jungle Book Bear, (R) 5.15
Read Jungle Jones Horse
Divided For State S

- 7.45 The Perfect Morecambe & Wise. A selection of sketches featuring the duo.
- sketches featuring the duo.

  8.15 Darcey's Ballerina
  Heroines. Darcey Bussell
  journeys from 18th-century
  France to 1950s America to
  explore the changing role of
  the ballerina and the
  challenges her predecessors
- January Common Production of the Management of t
- Musical comedy, starring Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane.

12.35 Film: Lady Caroline Lamb. (1972) 2.35 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV- Dino Dan. 6.10 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Mott Hatter Chronicles, (R) 6.45 Canimals. (R) 6.55 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 Dinner Date. (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.5 The Corocolide Hunter 11.25 The Crocolide Hunter 11.25 The Croco

- Weather.5. 45 ITV News; Weather. 6.00 You've Been Framed! Best of the Best. Classic clips and Harry Hill's most surreal comments inspired by viewers' home videos, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful accidents.
- accidents.

  7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
  Takeaway. The Geordie duo
  target chef Gordon Ramsay
  with their latest stunt, Little
  Ant and Dec meet Mr
  Selfridge star Jeremy Piven
  and comedienne Sarah
  Millican is the guest
  announcer.
- The Cube. New series. Gym instructor Chris and student Sophie hope to beat the Cube and take home the £250,000 jackpot.
- The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to The host chats to supermodel Claudia Schiffer, comedian Dara O Briain, Sex and the City actress Kristin Davis and rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube.

  10.20 ITV News; Weather.

  10.35 Film: Fast & Furious. (2009)
- 12.35 Jackpot247. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

#### **CHANNEL 4**

CHANNEL 35 The Grid.
7.00 Trans World Sport. 7.55
Paratympic Winter Games — The
Countdown. (R) 8.00 The Morning
Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves
Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody
Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Frasier.
(R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.20 How I Met Your Mother.
12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The
Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Channel 4
Racing. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R)
5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40
Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40
Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 Come Dine with Me.

- Come Dine with Me. (R)
  6.10 Come Dine with Me.
  Accountant Toni Shukla
  hosts the final dinner party in
  Birmingham. (R)
  6.40 Channel 4 News.
  7.05 The Restoration Man.
  Transforming a church in the
  Department of the Company of the Comp
- The Storms That Stole
  Christmas. The stories of
  those who bore the brunt of
  the bad weather over
  Christmas 2013 and the
- Christmas 2013 and the surrounding period. Christmas 2013 and the surrounding period. Christmas 2013 and the surrounding period. Christmas 2013 and expert commentary. (R) Hostages. Ellen must decide whether to save Duncan's life and sets out to track down his wife Nina, while Boyd prome in a misguided attempt to help Morgan. Film: The Linguist Purpose.
- to help Morgan.

  10.00 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer.
  (2011) Premiere. Legal
  thriller, starring Matthew
  McConaughey.

  12.15 Film: A History of Violence.
  (2005) 2.00 Boss. 3.05 Mesh:
  Covert. (R) 3.10 One Born Every
  Minute. (R) 4.05 Kirstle's
  Handmade Treasures. (R)

#### **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Film: Jetsons: The Movie. (1990) JOSEPHINISTRACE 3.39 FIIII.
JUSTOSIT. THE MOVIE. (1930)
Blanc. 11.25 Films Shuart Little 3.
Call of the Wild. (2005) Children's animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Michael J Fox. 12.55
Films. Getting Even with Dad. (1934) Family cornedy, starring Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson.
Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson. (1975) Crime drama, with Peter Falk. 4.35 Films. Columbo:
Candidate for Crime. (1973)
Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.30 The NCIS Movie: Payback.
Feature-length episode. The agents try to locate a serial killer, but their investigation leads to a surprising revealation. Meanwhile, research of the surprising revealation. Meanwhile, which is the surprising revealation. Meanwhile, which is the surprising revealation. Meanwhile, which is the surprising and the surprising t

bout at the City Academy in Bristol.

11.10 Film: Pistol Whipped.
(2008) A former cop becomes a hitman to clear his debts, but begins to suspect his employer is hiding something from him. Steven Seagal and Lance Henriksen. Edited for language.

105 SuperCasino. Live interactive

language.
1.05 Super-Casino, Live interactive gaming, 3.05 Benidorm ER. (R)
4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley
Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20
Valley Show. (f) 5.40 Hana's Helpline. (R)
Helpline. (R)

#### **DIGITAL**

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D 7.25 Doctor Who 8.10 Top Gear **9.10 Film**: I Am Nun 2011) **10.50** Family Guy

RBC Four
7.00 Great Barrier Reef 8.00 Lost
Kingdoms of South America 9.00
Salamander 10.35 What's Going
On? The Life and Death of Marvin
Gaye 11.35 Roll Over BeethovenThe Chess Records Saga

17V2
2.50 Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003)
4.40 Film: Step Up (2006) 6.55
Film: Ocean's Thirteen (2007) 9.20
Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall
(2008) 11.30 Film: The Sweetest
Thing (2002)

Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Endeavour. Inspec Morse prequel, starring Shaun Evans. 11.00 A Touch of Frost 1TV4

# 1TV4 2.40 Film: The Manchurian Candidate (1962) 5.15 Film: Nevada Smith (1966) 7.55 Hornblower. The seafaring hero's resourcefulness turns the tide of a battle. 10.00 Film: Schindler's List (1993)

E4
4.00 Rude(ish) Tube 5.00 The Big
Bang Theory: Access All Areas 5.30
The Big Bang Theory 6.30 The Big
Bang Theory: It All Started with a
Big Bang 7.00 How I Met Your
Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People
9.00 Film: Trading Places (1983)
11.20 Rude Tube: Viral Ads

# Film4 3.15 Imagine That (2009) 5.20 The Phantom (1996) 7.15 Bedazzled (2000) Fantasy comedy remake, starring Brendan Fraser. 9.00 The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) 11.05 28 Days Later (2002)

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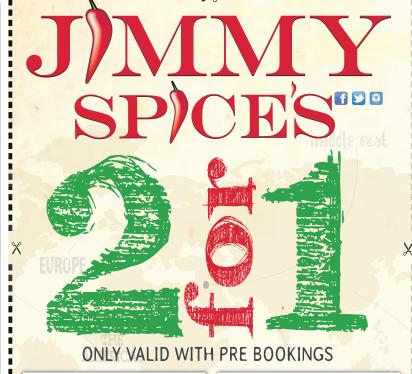
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#### What's On!

#### **SUNDAY'S TV** 2.03.14

#### CHOICE



**Kelly Hoppen** 

Dragons' Den BBC2, 9pm It's always fun to play along while watching telly, especially if you're playing "guess Peter Jones' next "guess Peter Jones' next
pun" on Dragons' Den.
Here, he and fellow
Dragons Duncan
Bannatyne, Deborah
Meaden, Kelly Hoppen and Piers Linney meet two women with an alpaca-based knitwear company, based knitwear company, but will Peter accuse them of 'spinning a yarn', or ask them to get down to the 'knitty gritty' of their proposal? Among the other would-be entrepreneurs is the director of a Londonbased design company with a new take on the sticky

6.00 Breakfast, 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics, 12.15 MorTD2 Extra. 1.00 BBC News: Weather, 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.15 The Indian Doctor. (R) 3.00 Hz. (R) 4.10 Decision of the MorTD2 Extra. 10.00 BBC News: Weather, 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.15 Hz. (R) 1.15 Hz.

6.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather

6.30 Blandings. Clarence must prevent his brother from publishing his scandalous mamoire.

memoirs.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker explores Elmley Marshes on the Isle of Sheppey off the coast of Kent, Ellie Harrison visits Knole House further inland and Helen Sketton is in the Willshire countryside. Including Weather for the Midwight of the Mid

Call the Midwife. A new mum and her baby go missing, Jenny begins to see cracks in the establishment while on secondment, and Chummy discovers her mother has walked out on her father.

The Musketeers. The swordsmen help a young some words with the left had been a compared to the compared baby som, while the king is rejuctably required with his

vavy son, while the king is reluctantly reunited with his scheming mother Marie de Medici.

10.00 BBC News; Weather 10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Swansea City v Crystal Palace.

11.30 The League Cup Show.
Manchester City v

Sunderland.

12.10 Weatherview. 12.15 BBC

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.10 Film: School for Scoundrels. (1960) 7.40 Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) 8.40 Countryfile. (R) 9.40 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.10 James Kitchen Besf Bites. 11.10 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 11.55 Michel Roux's Service. (R) 12.55 Michel Roux's Service. (R) 1.55 Film: Vertigo. (1958) 4.00 Cycling. 5.35 Glant Squid: Filming the Impossible – Natural World Special. (R)

...... verrigo. (1988) 4.00 Cycling.
5.35 Glant Squid: Filming the Impossible – Natural World Special. (R)
6.20 Film: Invincible. (2006)
Fact-based sporting drama about an American football fan given the chance to play for the team he has supported all his life. With Mark Wahlberg, Greg Kinnear and Elizabeth Banks.
8.00 Top Gear. Richard Hammond drives the Porsche 918
Spyder and Jeremy Clarkson creates a public information promote safer cycling. With Breaking Bad star Aaron Paul.

Dragons' Den. A London-based entrepreneur pitches a based entrepreneur pitches a new take on the sticky note, and two women bring a pair of alpacas as they try to gain funds for their knitwear business. Last in the series.

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Science and Technology. Another themed selection from the show's archives. (R)

archives. (R)
1.30 Line of Duty. Denton reveals
a high-ranking officer has a
motive for framing her. (R)
11.30 Film: The Mission. (1986)
Historical drama, with Robert
De Niro and Jereny Irons.
1.30 Sign Zone. Countryllie. (R)
2.25 Hins 18 BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan, 6.10 Dino Dan, (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles, (R) 6.45 Canimals, (R) 6.55 Canimals, (R) 7.00 Canimals, (R) 7.10 Om Nom Stories, (R) 7.15 Om Nom Stories, (R) 7.20 Sooty, (R) 7.30 Scambield, 9.25 Murder, She Wrote, (R) 11.25 Dickinson's Real Deal, (R) 11.25 Dickinson's Real Deal, (R) 11.25 To Mews; (R) 12.30 Film: Columbo: Death Hits the Jackpot, (1991) 2.30 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries, (R) 3.30 Film: Diamonds Are Forever, (1971) 5.50 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather 6.15 Dancing on Ice

ITV News; Weather.
Dancing on Ice. Phillip
Schofield and Christine
Bleakley host the semi-final,
and the competition is sure
to be intense with only three
grabs. The results are at
3.0pm.
All Star Family Fortunes.
Coronation Street special of
the game show. Last in the
series.

8.30

Dancing on Ice: The Skate
Off. The two lowest-scoring
couples compete. Last in the

series.

Mr Selfridge. Following
Henri's arrest and Harry's
disappearance, the police
visit the Selfridges' home in
search of clues. Agnes receives an ominous telegram and Lady Mae faces a tough decision.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.
10.15 It'll Be Alright on the Night's
Best of the Worst.

pest of the Worst.

Compilation of clangers from the programme's history, (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.15 The Store. 2.15 The Jeremy kyle Show USA. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

#### **CHANNEL 4**

6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.10 Freesports on 4.7.35 Arenacross 8.00 Film Superbike World Championship. 8.35 Soch Special: Paralympip. 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.30 How! Met Your Mother. 2.25 The Simpsons. (R) 2.56 The Simpsons. (R) 3.20 Deal Champions (R) 4.25 Film Grease. (1978) 6.30 Champions. (R) 6.30

Channel 4 News Channel 4 News. Fish Fight: Hugh's Last Stand. Follow-up documentary in which Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall tells the story of how hundreds of thousands of people came together to bring about radical reforms to fishing poli

Policies.

Britain's Bronze Age
Mummies: A Time Team
Special. Tony Robinson
follows an archaeological dig
on a burial ground in
Northumberland and
investigates other finds that
are changing people's
understanding of the Bronze
Age

Film: Salt. (2010) A CIA 9.00 Film: Salt. (2U1U) A DIA agent goes on the run after she is accused of being a sleeper assassin sent to president. Action thriller, starring Angelina Jolle and Liev Schreiber.

11.00 Film: Predator. (1987) A military team on a mission in a Central American jungle in a Central American jungle in the president of the president in search of human prey. Sci-fi thriller, with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

1.00 Film: The Fountain. (2006)

1.00 Film: The Fountain. (2006) 2.35 One Born Every Minute. (R)

# **CHANNEL 5** CHANNEL 5 6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifl and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bubble Standard Car. (R) 6.25 Bubble Show (R) 6.50 Choles Choset (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.00 End Colored Choles C

#### **DIGITAL**

**7.00** The Voice UK **9.15** Hair **10.15** Family Guy **11.00** Bluestone 42 **11.30** American Dad!

Listings supplied by Press Associat

BBC Four
7.00 Timeshift: The Golden
Age of Coach Travel 8.00 The
Fairytale Castles of King Ludwig II
with Dan Cruickshank 9.00
Timewatch: Captain Cook – The
Man Behind the Legend 10.00
Film: Barbara (2012) 11.40
Timeshift: The Golden Age of
Coach Travel
ITV2

ITV2
2.15 Film: Step Up (2006) 4.25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 5.45 Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) 7.55 Film: Coyote Ugly (2000) 10.00 The Only Way Issex 10.50 Party Wright Around the World 11.50 The Big Reunion 2014

2.50 Rosemary & Thyme 4.55 Lewis 6.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 The One and Only Cilla Black 10.30 Inspector Morse

ITV4
3.05 Tim Vine's Punslinger 4.25
Film: The Sting (1973) 7.00
Storage Wars 8.00 Premiership
Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Memphis
Belle (1990) 11.10 Hell on Wheels

54 3.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 4.00 The Tomorrow People 5.00 Troy 6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory 10.30 My Mad Fat Diary 11.30 How I Met Your Mother

Z.55 Stardust (2007) 5.20 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) 7.05 The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) 9.00 Sanctum (2011) 11.10 Pride and Glory (2008)

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6.35 Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) Sci-fl adventure, starring Bruce Willis.
8.55 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Erin Brockovich. (2000) A single mother goes to work at a law firm and support of the starring Bruce Brockovich. (2000) A single mother goes to work at a law firm and support of the starring as small town's water. Fact-based drama, with Julia Roberts and Albert Finney.
11.45 Film: The Fog. (2005)
Horror remake, starring Tom Wilding Sci. (2005)
1.35 Cellonano. 3.05 Frauma Doctor, 6.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.45 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Hana's Helpline. For the FREE Age UK Hearing Aids Consumer Guide or to book a **FREE** no obligation hearing assessment, please call UKHEARING CARE

Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) Sci-fi adventure,

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#### **Film Choices**

Monday Lethal Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Letnat obsession, nanner 3, 15pm
A woman with a troubled mary 3,15pm
funeral, and is reunited with her dangerously
overprotective brother. He initially seems to have moved
on from his past obsessive behaviour, but when people
around her start disappearing, she realises he is killing
anyone he disapproves of – and her husband may be
not. Theiling setzing kellik Martin and Amatin send. kt. Thriller, starring Kellie Martin and Adam MacDonald, (2007)

#### Mercenary for Justice, Channel 5, 11pm

A soldier for hire vows to look after the wife and son of a dead comrade-in-arms, but the family is kidnapped by a rogue CIA faction. The mercenary is forced to carry out a dangerous mission to break into a notorious South African prison and free the son of an arms dealer. Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal, Jacqueline Lord, Roger Guenveur Smith and Luke Goss. (2006)

Deadly Isolation, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A widow is unaware her academic husband led a double life as a jewel thief, and was once involved in the theft of \$20million in diamonds. However, when his two partners in crime are released from prison, they come looking for her, believing she has the gems. Thriller, starring Sherilyn Fenn and Nicholas Lea. (2005)



ld Trade Center, Wednesday, Channel 4, 12.05am

World Trade Center, Channel 4, 12,05am

Fact-based drama inspired by the events of September 11. The film focuses on two police officers who were trapped in the wreckage of one of the Twin Towers while they oversaw the evacuation, and examines the effects of the tragic incident on their families. Directed by Oliver Stone and starring Nicolas Cage, Maria Bello, Michael Pena and Maggie Gyllenhaal. (2006)

Thursday Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman receives a promotion at work that entails moving to a different city, so decides to end her relationship with her boyfriend and make a fresh start. However, he does not take kindly to the rejection. Thriller, starring Charisma Carpenter. (2011)

The Proposal, BBC1, 10.35pm

A Canadian publishing editor working in New York faces deportation to her own country. Desperate to stay in America, she offers her assistant a promotion if he will marry her, but an immigration official becomes suspicious and the pair are forced to go to desperate lengths to look like a happy couple. Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds. (2009)

#### **Pick of the Week**

# **Everyday menus for** special occasions

ary Berry may be 78, an age when most people are concentrating on relaxing rather than reaching the peak of their career, but she's bigger and more popular than ever.

Nobody could have foreseen hat a phenomenon that show would end up being, and how it would suddenly turn Mary into a national

Okay, so long-standing foodies were already aware of her thanks to her recipe books and earlier TV experiences, but none of those brought her the same kind of exposure as the Bake Off did.

exposure as the Bake Uff did.

She'll be back for a new run of that later in the year when the show moves to BBC1, but for now, she's on BBC2 again, this time presenting sik-part series, in which she offers tips for nervous cooks from her own kitchen. her own kitchen

Mary hopes to inspire people to prepare meals for both everyday and special occasions, including meals

that will appeal to every member of the family, young and old.

As ever, Mary delivers her advice in her firm but fair, gentle yet easy-to-understand way – and she likes to keep it straightforward, too.

"First of all, you have to decide what you're going to do," she says when asked for advice on what to cook for a

unner party.

"Go simple and don't try something you haven't done before. It's a good idea to have the first course and the pud chilled, and then you can concentrate on the main meal.

"I don't want anything last-minute because anything can happen. I do try to plan, because I want to be with my guests. It's all about them, and they don't want to see you stressed.

And if you're in the kitchen cooking with them, they can watch you, and people like that."

people like trat.
Unlike some TV chefs, she
doesn't like to bombard viewers with
ingredients they may never have
heard of: "It's very important that the
recipes work and contain
ingredients that everybody can buy

from their local supermarkets." Amen to that!

She kicks off the series by offering ideas for a traditional tea party. You'll certainly never look at sandwiches in the same way again, and will be rushing out to buy the ingredients to make Mary's mouth-watering bitesized scones too.

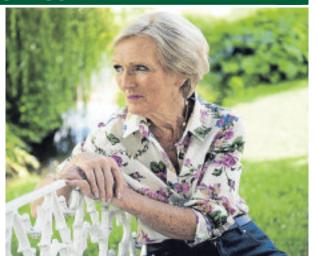
Her granddaughters also make a guest appearance while helping her make orange butterfly cakes.

As for Mary's dream guests, who would she choose? Alongside her beloved family, she has a very special couple in mind.

couple in mind.

"would like to have the Duke and Duchess and Cambridge," she smiles. "I'did actually meet them while working with the charity Child Bereavement UK. It would be lovely to cook for them because one day he's going to be the king of England.

"I know what they like, because they use my cookery books. I'd have to do a pudding with brandy for Katherine and William, I think, would like tallagio chicken. They are in very good shape so I wouldn't want to go too verboard!"



Mary Berry Cooks, Monday, BBC2, 8.30pm

#### **Best of the Rest**

#### Monday

#### Never Knew That About Britain

Author Christopher Winn loves trivia, which is why ne came up with the idea for a book called I Never Recame up with the local of a book called investigation. Knew That About England, and when it became a hit, followed it with tomes about Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Each edition featured little-known facts about each country, and went on to be the inspiration for this new, eight-part series, Paul Martin, Suzannah Lipscomb and Steve Mould nvestigate weird and wonderful places and people rom the past, and begin with remarkable tales involving an unsung hero with connections to the Spitfire and, bizarrely, the folding buggy, the Welsh women who battled Napoleon and the chap whose experiments helped the development of pain relief.

BBC1, 9pm Writer Peter Moffat's idea for this series was to capture the 'extreme pressure, the hard choices, the ethical dilemmas,' of life as a barrister, and the latest offering does that rather well. Martha (Maxine Peake) is assigned to defend a footballer accused of a pitch assault on another player. Considering the incident had thousands of witnesses, it seems she's finally hitten off more than she can chew It doesn't help that her client is reluctant to cooperate and help his defence, so she must get him on side to discover a secret he's determined to keep hidden from the football world. Also this week chambers are shocked by a resignation and Billy (Neil Stuke) takes steps to ensure Shoe Lane's

#### Tuesday Death in Paradise

as she walked home.

BBC1, 9pm Emma Redding is a retired lifesaver who was due to turn up at a party, but when she doesn't show or answer her phone, it sets alarm bells ringing. Her door is forced open and she's found dead on her bed with an empty packet of sleeping pills at her side. Two key questions dominate the case: how did the alleged killer get out of her locked room. and could one of Emma's so-called friends be the

#### Wednesday Left for Dead by the Yorkshire Ripper Channel 5, 8pm

Be warned: this won't make for easy viewing However, if anyone's happy putting a challenging and thought-provoking documentary about serial killers out there under an eye-catching title, it's Channel 5. This particularly harrowing film - shown surprisingly, before the watershed – focuses on one of Britain's most notorious murderers, Peter Sutcliffe, or the Yorkshire Ripper. Over the course of his five-year reign of terror, he killed 13 women and attempted to murder eight more, and we hear from some of those survivors. who recount Sutcliffe's attacks blow-by-blow. They include Marylyn Moore, who has never told her story before on television, and Tracy Browne, who describes how, when she was a 14-year-old schoolgirl, she was attacked

#### Line of Duty

BBC2, 9pm
Thanks to its authentic police procedural action, the first series of this tense drama is one of the more compelling examples of its genre we have seen in a long while. This series has been progressing at a real pace, and tonight sees Arnott uncover evidence that a tracker had been planted on one of the vehicles in the police convoy which was ambushed. Sole survivor Lindsay Denton, meanwhile, implies that Deputy Chief Constable Dryden was embroiled in a wider conspiracy – a when a series of video recordings made by the witness while in protective custody are discovered.

it's not long before the AC-12 officers begin to realise she's right – but it may be too late as she's in danger. Thursday

Coronation Street: A Moving Story ITV, 9pm
For more than half a century, Coronation Street has captured the hearts of the nation from the same

location in Manchester However, all that has changed recently. During the past two vears a new set has been built to house the Rovers Dev's shop

Underworld, and all those beloved homes. Of course for many long-term residents of the Street it's been an emotional upheaval moving to a different set. Here, cameras cover the final week of filming in December 2013 at Granada Studios, and document the cast and crew's move two miles away to MediaCity UK at Salford Quavs

#### DIY SOS: The Big Build

BBC1. 9pm

BBC golden boy Nick Knowles is a busy man at the moment – if he's not doting on his pregnant wife ahead the birth of their baby boy in the summer, he can usually be found doling out good news in various National Lottery game shows of a Saturday evening. He's going to meet himself coming backwards one of these days, but no matter how hectic his schedule gets, he'll always have time for DIY SOS. This week, he and the team are coming to the aid of Paul Makings, whose wife died shortly after she gave birth to their sixth child.

#### Friday Gogglebox Channel 4, 9pm

Okay, watching people watching telly really shouldn't be so addictive. But it is, thanks to this Big Brother-style series which has proved a hit with the nation. Whatever the reason for its likeability, bosses have thought it popular enough to bring it back for a third series, and in a Friday night primetime slot nonetheless. Narrated by Caroline Aherne, the series will feature the opinionated British households that have become so well-

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#### **Admissions Appeals Panel**

Walsall & Sandwell Academies would welcome applications from members of the local community to join their Admissions Appeal

Both schools are oversubscribed each year and the Panels will hear appeals in May (for applications to join Year 7) and at various other times throughout the year as and when required for in-year admissions appeals.

For further information please call:

Walsall Academy - Mrs S Turnbull 01922 493910 or Sandwell Academy - Mrs J Purcell 0121 525 1700 If you wish to join one or both Panels please apply by letter to:



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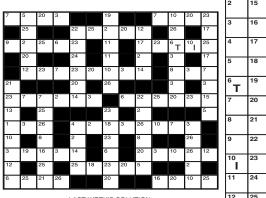
#### Puzzler

# Brain Gym

No.262

#### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



 $^{2}$ F  $^{3}$ M  $^{4}$ N  $^{5}$ E  $^{6}$ H  $^{7}$ P  $^{8}$ D  $^{9}$ J  $^{10}$ R  $^{11}$ T  $^{12}$ W  $^{13}$ A

#### **Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

#### **Cryptic Clues:**

- 7. Killing time officially
- (7.6)
- 8. Don't give up getting the unit back in shape (8)
- 9. Two-way agree ment (4)
- 10. We arrange sale of an animal (6)
- 12. Stern test or trans action (6)
- 14. Inferior type of
- 16. Mother and son supply fruit (6)
- 18. It's sung in varia tions (4)
- 20. Produce green tea, perhaps (8)
- 22. Arrogant description of Everest?

#### Down

- 1. The Poles are, but not the N. and S. ones (8)
- 2. Expresses conditions (6)
- 3. Soon unknown (4)
- 4. New radio set of astronomical impor tance (8)
- 5. I dread to be attacked (6)
- 6. A wooden trunk (4) 11. Man in a suit (8)
- 13. A top seat for a renegade (8)
- 15. Heartily dislike a hotel under recon-
- struction (6) 17. An illusion of heat (6)
- 19. It flies or takes a train (4)
- 21. Possibly mean to

# Quick Clues:

#### Across

- 7. Absolutely necessary (13)
- 9. Space (4)
- 10. Fondle (6)
- 12. Aptitude (6)
- 14. Alcove (6)
- 16. Distant (6)
- 18. Fashionable (4)
- 20. Demonstrative (8)

#### 1. Point out (8)

- 2. Uncomplicated (6)
- 3. Frank (4)
- 4. Forefather (8)
- 5. Cask (6)
- 6. Too (4)
- 11. Uneasy uncertainty (8)
- 13. Birth of Christ (8)
- **15.** Get free (6) 17. Meditation (6)
- 19. Greet (4)

# Fill in the grid below so that every column

9

every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stud, 8 Infallible: 9 Attended; 10 Ends; 12 Yearly; 14 Eat out, 15 Miller; 17 Stud; 8 Left; 19 Confract; 21 Man of parts; 22 Hamely of the parts; 25 Hamely of the parts; 12 Hamely of the parts; 13 Relation; 15 Relation; 15 Relation; 15 Relation; 16 Recipe; 17 Sunday; 18 Lima; 20 Rush, OUICK - Across: 1 Lass; 8 Triumphant; 9 Complete; 10 Seep; 12 Artist; 14 Evince; 15 Static; 17 Treble; 18 Scar; 19 Maneater; 21 Felicitous; 22 Over. Down: 2 Autocratic; 3 Stop; 4 Divest; 5 Impede; 6 Chastise; 7 Step; 11 Excellence; 13 Internix; 16 Commit; 17 Tendor; 18 Sift; 20 Also.



ĬŜĠŶŢVĸĸŌĔ

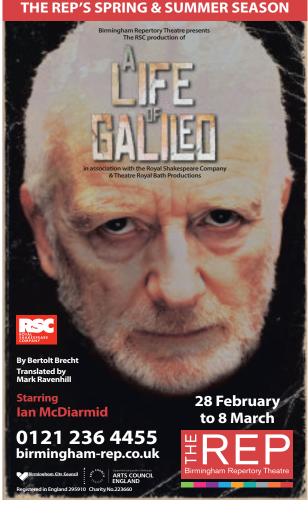


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- Ferraced Property
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- Dinina Room



- Lounge / Kitchen Bathroom, Bedroom
- Storage Cupboard
- Electric heating, UPVC DG



- Semi-Detached House
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms



- erraced House
- Two Bedrooms Lounge, Kitchen
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### Property

# Warm to ways for cut in energy and home bills

WITH energy bills at record levels, the Heating Helpline has some energy saving advice on ways to improve insulation and lower bills.

Around 60 per cent of the energy used in the home is for heating – for most households that's many hundreds of pounds spent

ing — for most households that's many hundreds of pounds spent per year just to keep it warm.

B&ES, the Building & Energy Services Association, who operate the free consumer advice service the Heating Helpline, say too few households take sufficient measures to fully insulate their homes. This means a lot of energy — and money — is simply wasted. Yet there are simple steps to take, some costing very little, that can help keep the warmth in, so there is much less need to crank up the thermostat.

Here are the Heating Helpline's to 10 list of tips

1. If you have less than 10cm of insulation in your loft you'll be wasting energy. Top the insulation up to 27cm and you could save over £150 a year.

2. Since the 1930s, most houses have been built with an air cavity between two outer walls. Get this gap filled with insulating foam and you could save up to £200 a year on bills.

3. Floorboards lose a lot of heat. Insulation seal between the gaps can save you about £25 per year.

4. Insulate your hot water cylinder. Fitting a British Standard jacket around your cylinder will cut heat loss by over 75 per cent and save you

der. Fitting a British Standard Jacket around your cylinder will cut heat loss by over 75 per cent and save you around £40 a year — more than the cost of the jacket.

5. Lagging all your hot water pipes could also save you more than £25 a year.



Top up your loft insulation and you could save more than £150 a yea

proofing doors and windows by sealing proofing doors and windows by sealing gaps will help save energy. A curtain at the front door and heavy, well-fitted curtains provide insulation and reduce draughts. To track down the source of draughts take a lit candle and see where it flickers.

7. Keep your doors and windows closed when the heating is on and save £15 a year.

closed when the heating is on and save £15 a year.

8. Thermal blinds, which stay flush to the window frame using magnets, are a good alternative to heavy-lined curtains. Cost is about £145 per sq m.

9. Draw your curtains at dusk to help keep the heat generated inside your rooms.

could also save you more than £25 a your rooms.
year.

10. Unused fireplaces are one of the biggest causes of lost heat. If you're mean avoidable heat loss. Draught not using your chimney but don't

want to board it up try a chimney bal-loon – they're easy to inflate and last

Ioon – they're easy to inflate and last for years.

Under the Government's Energy Company Obligation (ECO) pro-gramme participating energy compa-nies will help pay for all or part of the cost of installing different home insulation measures and even a new boiler To find out more contact the independ

To find out more contact the independent Energy Saving Advice Service on: 0300 123 1234.

The Heating Helpline provides essential information on energy saving in the home and the importance of regular heating maintenance, and also offers dozens of money-saving solutions for homeowners. Contact them free on 0800 810 8303 or visit the website at: http://www.heatinghelpline.org.uk

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- Single car integral garage, parking & gardens



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- \*kitchen, utility room
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- Semi detached hr
- Gas centrally heatedPVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
   Conservatory, utility, guest cloaks/WC
   4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, drive and gardens £194,500



Lincoln Road

- Gas centrally heated
  PVCu double glazed
  Lounge, Kitchen, Utility
  3 bedrooms, bathroom
- Ample parking Mature garden

£209,950









- Wood Common Grange
- Modern Detached House
   Four Bedrooms, en-suite)
   Through Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility Room, Conservatory
- Utility koom, Co....
   Driveway & Garage
   Rear Garden, No onward Chain
   £245,000



- Long Lane Great Wyrley
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
   Re-fitted Breakfast Room/Kitchen



- Detached Family Home
- Gas centrally heated PVCu double glazed Lounge, kitchen, conse
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC • Driveway, garage, gardens £269,950





I PVC. I action glazed Lounge, dining kitchen 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC Commercial workshops Workshops or Approved Planning for Residential Viewing Essential 2375,000



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  - £200,000



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- Deceptively spacious
   Generous lounge Energy Rating TBC
   Well equipped re-fitted kitchen
- Superb conservatory
- Two bedrooms
   Superb re-fitted luxury bathroom
- Driveway Rear gardens
   Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Description | D

WILLENHALL

£164,950



#### £159,950



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  ns Retritted bathroom
  ning room Extended Newly Fitted Kitchen
  atting Double Glazing
  ting Garage/carport Rear garden

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ABERFORD CL, WILLENHALL ounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining oom, Family Bathroom, Separate ing, Integral Garage, ar Gardens, Cul-De-S









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WILLENHALL ST, DARLASTON perty Having Entrance I, Modern Fitted Kitchen, inge, Ground Floor W.C, ee Bedrooms, Modern Fan hroom, C/Heating, D/Glazi



ST CHADS RD, BILSTON ungalow Having Of Veranda, ner Hallway, Living Room, Utility





BENTLEY WHARF, SHORT HEATH





WEBSTER ROAD, WILLENHALL

GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL



PINFOLD ST, DARLASTON ntrance Porch, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Fitted Bathroom With Walk In Sho Bath, C/Heating, D/Glazing



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  Two Reception Rooms

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  Breakfast Kitchen

  Cloakroom W.C
- Utility
   Bedroom with En-Suite
   Family Bathroom
   Rear Garden
- - In the Region of £349,950



Walsall
GILLITY AVENUE

Three Bed Detached Dorma Bungald
Breakfast Kitchen Lounge/Dining ro
En-Suite Garage Family Bathroom
Front & Rear Gardens
Central Heating Double Glazing

: ed Dorma Bungalow •Lounge/Dining room

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Three Bedroom Detached

- Two Reception Rooms
   Kitchen with Large Pantry●Verandah
   Newly Fitted Bathroom●Guest W.C.
   Large Detached Garage

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CRAB LANE

- Inree Bedroom Link-Detached
   Through Lounge/Dining Room
   Fitted Kitchen●Front & Rear Gardens
   Shower Room●Driveway with Garage
   Double Glazing●Central Heating

£164,950



FIFI D ROAD

- EXTENDED 3 BED DETACHED
   Extended Kitchen
   Gas Heating
  Reception Rooms
- Kitchen 
   Utility Bathroom
- Separate W.C.Garage

FIELD ROAD

Three Bed Ser



- Bloxwich
  FIELD ROAD
  Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
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  Re-Fitted Kitchen®Conservatory
- Utility Room/WC●Family Bathroom Rear Garden • Garages & Workshop

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In the Region of £194,000



- THREE BED SEMI-DETACHED
  Double Glazing
  Gas Central H
  Garage
  Gardens
  Parking
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
   Bathroom

BERNARD STREET

Three Redress

 Part Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating

■ Large Entrance Hall

Through Lounge/

Offers in excess of £190,000



- Pelsaii
  ALLENS LANE

  Three Bedroom Semi-Detached

  Through Lounge/DinereConservatory

  L-Shape Extended Fitted Kitchen Family Bathroom
   Enclosed Rear Garden

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  Three Bedroom Detach
- Inree Bedroom Detached
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   En-Suite Shower Room•Off Road

Parking

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- COPPICE FARM WAY
- Extended 3 Bed Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
   Fitted Kitchen Family BathroomeGardens
   ParkingeD. Glazing & Gas Heating

In the Region of £140,000



- BRAMCOTE WAY ee bed semi detached

Guest CloakroomeLounge
Kitchen DinereBathroom
GardeneGarageeOff Road Parking Offers in excess of £140,000



mi-Detached

Inree Bed Semi-Jetached
 Dining Room●Lounge
 Fitted Kitchen●Utility●Downstairs W.C.
 Master with en-suite●Family Bathroom
 Front & Rear Gardens●Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £150,000

LANE AVENUE

- EXTENDED 3 BED SEMI-DETACHED
- Re-Furbished

  Note: Re-Fu

In the Region of £134,950



InHEE BEDROOM DETACHED
 D.GlazingeGas Heating
 GarageeOff Road Parking
 LoungeeKitchen/DinereFamily Bathroom
 Front & Rear Gardens

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Willenhall

- OAKRIDGE CLOSE THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- Cul-de-Sac location●Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
   Lounge
   Kitchen/Diner
   Family Bathroom
   Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region Of £134,950



In the Region of £145,000

Walsall

- HARNESS CLOSE m Link-Detached
- Lounge
   Kitchen Diner



ARROW ROAD

- EXTENDED THREE BED SEMI
- Kitchen/DinereShower Room
- Extended Lounge
  Off Road Parking
  Bathroom
  Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £129,950



- Walsall
  CARTBRIDGE LANE
  TWO BEDROOM MID-TERRACE
  D.Glazing Gas Heating
  Parking Lounge/Diner
  Kitchene-Cloakroom W.C
  Bathroom Gardens Off Road Parking



- LICHFIELD ROAD
- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
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  Lounge/Dining Room
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Family Bathroom
 Conservatory



STANLEY STREET

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   Majority DoubleGlazing●Gas Heating

   Lounge●Kitchen/Diner●Conservatory

   Downstairs W.C.Family Bathroom

   Front and Rear Gardens●No Upward



- MATLOCK CLOSE
- Three Befroom Terraced

  part D.Glazing and Gas Central Heating

  Dining RoomeInner lobbyeKitchen

  VerandaheLoungee Bathroom

  Front and Rear Gardens

  No Upward

In the Region Of £109.950



- DRYDEN ROAD

   EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI-
- DETACHED

  Double Glazing Gas Central Heating
  Lounge Extended Kitchen/Diner
  Ground Floor BathroomeEn-Suite

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BLAKENALL LANE

Three Bedroom Semi-E
Potential to ExtendeLo

■ ENTON CRESCENT

THREE BEDROOM END TERRACE

D.Glazing • Gas Central Heating (Where

Specified)

■ Off Road Parking●Lounge●Cloakroom



- QUEEN ELIZABETH AVENUE
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  Double Glazing-Lounge

  Gas Central Heating (Where Specified)

  Kitchen/Diner-Down Stairs Toilet

Family BathroomeFront & Rear Gardens

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KING CHARLES AVENUE

EXTENDED TWO BED SEMI-DETACHED

Double Garage-Ample Off Road Parking

Lounge-Dining Room-Extended Kitchen
Family Bathroom-Double Garage



 Front & Rear Gardens and Ample Off In the Region of £93,500 In the Region of £90,000



Walsail
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD
Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
Two Reception RoomseLean To
Kitchene/Ground Floor Bathroom
D.GlazingeGas HeatingeFront & Rear



Walsall
SMITHS FLOUR MILL
Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
Open Living Area-Parking
Fully Equipped Kitchen
Family Bathroom with Shower Double Glazing
 Electric Heating In the Region of £90,000



 Timee bedroom Semi-Detached
 Potential to ExtendeLoungeeNO CHAIN
 KitcheneDownstairs W.C.eParking
 Shower RoomeFront & Rear Gardens In the Region of £85,000



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TWO BEDROOM THIRD FLOOR

APARTMENT

 Double Glazing
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 Lounge/Diner
 Fitted Kitchen
 Family Bathroom
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GURNEY ROAD

• Two Bedroom End Terrace
• Lounge•Kitchen
• Bathroom

Downstairs W.C.GardenGarage

CARTBRIDGE WALK

TWO BEDROOM END-TERRACE

Double Glazing Lounge
Gas Central Heating Gas Central Heating
 Dining Room
 Gardens
 Farking
 Fitted Kitchen
 Family Bathroom

BIG (2) min.

CLARKES LANE
TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT
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Lounge Fitted Kitchen Utility Room



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Bathroom
Separate W.C.
Garage
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# **Drivetime**



# Fresh take on a popular model

The 2014 Geneva Motor Show will see the première of the new Citroën C1 - a fresh take on a popular model that has sold more than 760,000 examples worldwide since its launch in 2005.

The latest version of Citroën's city car is available in both three and five-door versions, as well as a new open-top body style called Airscape.

A car with a strong personality, delivering an upbeat response to urban mobility requirements, the new Citroën C1 reflects the bold renewal of Citroën's C-line.

#### Citroën C1 features:

More design: With dynamic lines and a cheerful front-end gaze, characterised by its head-lights, the C1 is an immediate head-turner.

Bi-tone versions and brightly coloured interiors underline the playful character and joie de vivre. The new C1 is unmistakably a member of the new Citroën family

Greater comfort: For everyday driving. Agile and nippy, the new C1 marries compact exterior dimensions (just 3.46m), with easy handling and a turning circle of 4.80m.

Ride comfort is further improved, thanks to the

C1's exceptional suspension comfort and impec-

cable road handling.

More useful technology: Including the 7" Touch Driver Interface and Mirror Screentechnology, to copy and run smartphone apps from the touchscreen

The new Citroën C1 can also be fitted with kevless entry and start, as well as a reversing camera and hill-start assist.

Optimised running costs: Weighing in at just 840kg and available with the new-generation petrol engines, the new Citroën C1 ranks among the best in class for fuel consumption, very important

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# Drivetime





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# Chevrolet Captiva is on route to a new era

Get behind the wheel of the Captiva and the raised driving position that SUV customers love so much is present and correct, writes Andy Enright.

The original Captiva featured Chevrolet's first die sel engine of the modern era and though that 150PS 2.0-litre unit was a decent first effort, what was just about acceptable back in 2007 was sounding dis-

tinctly rough three years on.
So its replacement in 2011 with the 2.2-litre engine still used here was timely. The entry-level front-driven Captiva has a 163PS version of this unit, but most AWD versions have the torquier 184PS derivative we tried, good for rest to 60 in 9.3 seconds on the way to 124mph in manual form or 9.8 seconds and 118mph if the slight clunkiness of said gearchange causes you instead to opt for the redesigned six-speed automatic transmission.

It's nice to have the extra power, but what we noticed more

It's nice to have the extra power, but what we noticed more from this engine on the move is its greater refinement. You do feel the kerb weight of nearly two tonnes as you thread your way through tight bends, but it's nothing you couldn't quite happily live with should the need arise to hurry along your progress.

The on-demand all-wheel drive underpinnings aren't changed in any significant respect but then they didn't need to be.

It isn't a Land Rover-rivalling set-up, aimed more at mud-

dy car parks than mountains, but useful approach and de-parture angles, Hill Start Assist to get you up steep slopes and Hill Descent Control to help you down them all mean that this car should be able to handle almost anything most owners will come across.

#### **Enhanced**

Since 2011, this car has made a more powerful visual statement, something which Chevrolet hopes to have further enhanced with a range of small but significant aesthetic tweaks.
So there are now LED tail lamps, angular chrome exhaus

tips and a remodelled bumper.

Up front, there's a smarter lower bumper and a revised grille mesh as well as restyled fog lamps. Stylish 18in alloy wheels hope to further enhance the Captiva's road pres-

As for luggage space, it's predictably mean at 97-litres with all seven seats occupied, though the separately-open-ing rear window is a neat touch, meaning that you don't need to lug up the rear tailgate if all you want to do is to throw in a sportsbag.

If you do need space for bigger items, you'll find up to 769 litres of fresh air is on offer when, more typically, you're not using the occasional third row of seats. And the five-seat version that doesn't have them adds to that further with an additional storage compartment under the boot floor.

If you're able to fold the 50:50 split-folding second row of

seating down as well to create a completely flat loadfloor then you'll increase your luggage capacity to a useful 1,577

The Captiva's pricing, sitting in the £21,500 to £31,500 bracket, is a mark of the importer's confidence in what these days is certainly a much better product.

Whichever Captiva you choose – front or all-wheel drive, with 163PS or 184PS versions of the 2.2-litre diesel engine –you should find your car to be decently equipped.

There's now keyless start and entry, plus a dual-zone climate system, an ambient lighting package and heated rear seats provide extra comfort on select specifications.

Even the entry-level front-driven 163PS five-seat version comes complete with air conditioning, Bluetooth compati-bility for your mobile phone, a six-speaker MP3 CD system with an AUX-in point, an eight-way adjustable driver's seat, rain sensing wipers, roof rails, 17in alloys, power folding mir-rors, an alarm immobiliser and electric windows all round.

#### **Improved**

It's a mark of modern engineering that though 2.2-litre 184PS 4WD versions of this Captiva are 25 per cent more powerful than their pre-2011 150PS 2.0-litre predecessors, they're also a good deal more economical, with a combined cycle fuel figure that's improved from a so-so 38.2mpg to

cycle fuel figure that's improved from a so-so 38.2mpg to a more acceptable 44.1mpg. Not surprisingly, you'll better that further in the minority interest front-driven 163PS version of this car, which delivers 45.5mpg. It's a similar story with emissions, with the 184PS version of this modern Euro5 compatible 2.2-litre diesel emitting 170g/km against its predecessor's 197g/km. Choose the front-wheel drive 163PS model and this figure drops to 184d/km collise the presequence of the control of the c 164g/km, so like the more powerful version, you'll find it in the 26 per cent BIK band.

What else? Well residual values are about midfield for a family 4x4 of this type, with a predicted figure of around 38 per cent of new value after three years.

And insurance costs should be competitive, with group ings on the 1-50 scale starting at 27 for the entry-level version and rising no higher than 32 for most mainstream mod-

And if you've got any doubts at all about buying into the Chevrolet brand, then five years of free servicing, breakdown cover and warranty should put them at rest.

# Drivetime

# **New Nissan** is dynamic and big in power stakes

Developed, honed and perfected during extensive testing in Europe, the Nissan GT-R Nismo will return to make its European debut at the 2014 Geneva Motor Show on March 4.

With DNA from the legendary Nismo global racing team, the ultimate GT-R is a race-oriented model delivering 'factory-tuned' supercar dynamics with revolutionary enhanced aerodynamics and ultra-precise handling.
The Nissan GT-R is already established as one of the best

performing supercars in the automotive sphere, and now Nissan has drawn on decades of racing experience gathered by Nismo, the brand's motorsport specialists, to develop the ultimate Nissan GT-R.

The Nissan GT-R Nismo features exclusive styling that embraces the longstanding racing philosophy of form following function. It has numerous motorsports-inspired tech-nologies to enhance the car's performance through opti-mised aerodynamics, suspension and powertrain, creating a well-balanced machine that is at home on both the road and track.
The Nissan GT-R Nismo is now available in Japan, and

will go on sale in Europe in September. Complementing its authentic Japanese racing heritage, the new GT-R flagship also has roots in Europe, having been developed and tested at Germany's famous Nürburgring Nordschleife, widely considered to be one of the most challenging circuits in the

Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn says this is the fastest Nissan GT-R ever: "With a 7:08.679 lap time, we can authoritatively say that the Nissan GT-R Nismo holds the volume production car lap record at the Nürburgring Nordschleife, which is the gold standard of high performance achievement."

#### **Benefits**

Under the hood, the 3.8-litre V6 VR38DETT engine benefits from the know-how Nismo has gained from participating in such events as the world-renowned Nürburgring 24-hour race. Engine power has risen and is now rated at 600PS (441kW) and 481lb/ft (652 Nm) of torque.

New high-flow, large capacity turbochargers, which are used for GT3 racing, improve breathing, while optimised individual ignition timing control for each cylinder and upgrad-

ed fuel pump improve combustion.

The springs and custom-developed Bilstein DampTronic dampers in the front and rear suspension are specially tuned to deliver exceptional grip levels and progressive handling response at the limit. Three suspension modes can be selected: Comfort, Normal and R, for circuit applications.

Exclusive Nismo tyres – developed by Dunlop – exhibit outstanding grip and handling characteristics. Front: 255/40 ZRF20; rear 285/35 ZRF20.

Specially-developed links fitted to the front double wish-bone suspension increase castor trail to optimise wheel po-sition during high-G cornering and improve straight-line and cornering stability. Additionally, large high-rigidity bolts are used to increase stiffness of the wheel-hub attachment area.

To minimise body-roll during cornering and changes of

direction, the Nissan GT-R Nismo features a 17.3mm hollow rear anti-roll bar which raises roll stiffness while reducing weight.

Using the latest Computational Fluid Dynamic simulation techniques to analyse airflow, Nismo has developed an aero package which improves road-holding, minimises the negative impact of drag, while giving the car a menacing and muscular appearance.

Together, the front bumper, engine undercover strake and carbon rear spoiler increase downforce, lowering the centre of gravity and generating an additional 100kg (at 300km/h) compared to the freshly updated 2014 Nissan GT-R model. The car's aerodynamic characteristics are tuned to ensure the downforce is equally spread front to rear at all speeds for progressive handling characteristics.

A widened front bumper configuration and elongated yet tapered rear bumper design keep the drag to Cd 0.26, same as that of 2014 Nissan GT-R.









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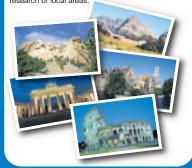
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ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A) AND THE MOTORWAYS TRAFFIC (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATION S182 - REGULATION 16(2) THE ME MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 10 TO JUNCTION 9) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an Order on the M6 Motorway in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to allow bridge maintenance work to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be at different times, to -

(1) impose a 50 miles per hour speed restriction on the southbound carriageway of the M6 from a point 500 metres north of its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 10 to a point 300 metres north of its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 9;

se – the southbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 10 to its junction with entry slip road at Junction 9;

(b) the slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 10;

(3) close various lanes of the southbound carriageway of the M6 described in (2) (a) above and allow traffic to use the hardshoulder

Work will be carried out overnight between 22:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Tuesday 11 March 2014 and continue for three nights. The Order will come into force on Tuesday 4 March 2014. three nights. The Order will coline into lonce on Indexag 4 ward 2014. Whicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes will be exempt from the speed restriction and closures. Vehicles being used for special forces purposes will be exempt from the speed restriction, and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closures. Diversion routes during the closures will be well signed.

For further information, please contact Colin Jackson on 0121 687 8620.

Paul Siddall, a Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency.

#### Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council.

Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www walsall ony ul/halaning

www.walsall.govuk/planning
Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.govuk or
in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street,
Walsall, WS1 IDG.
Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.
Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which
is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The
information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED) PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

#### DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

13/1393/FL \*4+ Anmer Waheed Mr Aamer Waneed FOR: Change of use of land from Agriculture to Cemetery, creation of new highway access, site road and car parking. Construction of single storey reception building. Tree and shrub planting. Amendment to and resubmission of planning application

TEC BIRD STREET, PRINTED STREET, STREE

LONGWOOD COTTAGES), WALSALL

140189/FL

Marcity Developments

FOR: Amendments to planning permission 10:0763/FL relating to the erection of
251 dwellings to substitute 14 x 3 bed houses for 14 x 2 bed houses on plots 235-248

inclusive (scheme previously amended by permissions 11/1364/FL and 13/1572/FL),

AT: FORMER SITE OF WALSALL DEPOT, NORFOLK PLACE, WALSALL

#### 14/0191/WA

M. & A. Dooccy FOR: Infilling and capping of former limestone mine shafts using on site and imported inert fill processed using a crusher and screen to make engineered infill materials with a reduced scheme to protect the area of the former lime kilns and to resort the ground within 12 months to open space. AT: LAND AT, WINTERLEY LANE, WALSALL

The application marked \* does not accord with the provisions of the development plan for the area.



#### KIND CARING GENT 76

KIND CARING GENT 76
Seeks same in a lady for friendship and companionship, maybe more. Prefer local but not essential. Photo would be appreciated and I will send one back. I will answer all replies.

Box Number P19077,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

#### personal



# WIDOW, LATE 60'S Blonde, medium build, 5ft 6 and attractive.



CALL SEXY LOCAL WOMEN for no fees adult fun. Contact 0700 802

Would love to meet Widower to share the simple things in life again.
Photo appreciated, will return
Box Number P19079. Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

XTASIA SWINGERS CLUB West Bromwich, www.xtasia.co.uk for full information, 07850 236052



#### **SPORT**

# bull their way to a victorv

Walsall ladies 4 Hereford ladies 6

NOT having played since December 15 Walsall found themselves two goals down after 15 minuets, although having the majority of play Hereford were proving clinical in front of goal.

Walsall pulled a goal back on the half hour through Emma Morgan. However, Hereford increased through Hereford increased through Walsall's bad defending. With only their fifth attack Hereford added a fourth, Walsall pulled another goal back thanks to Rachel

Hereford scored a fifth in the second half but Walsall reduced the arrears again when Emma Morgan slot-ted home.

Walsall knew it was not Walsall knew it was not going to be their day when first their full back slipped allowing a Hereford winger to advance and as Walsall keeper came off her line she slipped and the ball went under her allowing a Hereford playerto slide the ball home.

Although the general performance was good Walsall will have to tighten up there defence.

Walsall Ladies FC's rearranged county cup semi final takes place at Yates Sports and Social Ground, Lime Lane, Pelsall kick off

### Hutton's exile due to wages

BOSS Paul Lambert has lifted the lid on Alan Hut-ton's Villa exile and admit-ted he has been frozen out because he earns too much.

The claret and blues chief has confirmed for the first time financial reasons are behind Hutton's banish-

The Scotland interna-The Scotland interna-tional – who has been called up by Gordon Strachan to face Poland next month – is on £40,000-a-week at Villa Park.

Hutton has not played for Lambert at Villa with his last appearance coming under Alex McLeish at Tot-

under Alex McLeish at Tot-tenham in May, 2012.
And Lambert admitted the right-back, whose con-tract expires in 2015, will not play again as they look to get him off the wage bill.
"It will be unlikely he will

"It will be unlikely he will ever play here – he knows that. We need to get the structure down to a level," said Lambert, who has also shipped out big earners Stephen Ireland and Darren Bent.

#### Jackett in call for cool heads

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett today warned his play-ers to keep their cool in the face of provocation to avoid derailing their promotion

push.

Bakary Sako seemed to be targeted by right-back Alan McCormack in Saturday's 3-0 win at Brentford, while James Henry was booked for a 'handbags' clash with George Saville after reacting to a tackle.

"Concentration on your "Concentration" on your "C

"Concentration on your football and not rising to the bait is very important," said head coach Jackett.

head coach Jackett.

"I spoke to Sako about it at half-time and said 'just don't get involved or even look at him'.

"I was a defender myself,

# Hereford Wolves stamp authority on Brentford

Brentford 0 Wolves 3
AT Griffin Park the seemingly
unstoppable west London club
were checked in such conclusive
fashion it was difficult to believe
at the finish just how testing this
fixture had seemed in the days approaching.
Three peachy strikes picked off

Three peachy strikes, picked off at critical moments, answered de-mands led by their head coach for more clinical finishing.

Individual performances on a beast of a surface moved up a notch, too, ensuring the execution of Jackett's game plan

'Jackett's game plan. Carl Ikeme and his defenders.

ance established by Jack Price and Kevin McDonald, claimed another Kevin McDonald, claimed another clean sheet. In this run of six successive wins, Sam Baldock's penalty for Bristol City remains the only breach of their lines.

Spirit
Two more goals for Michael Jacobs, a perfect execution on the counter attack followed by an even better one to finally break Brentford's spirit, suprested once again.

ford's spirit, suggested once again that Wolves did not so much sign him from Derby as commit an act

of grand larceny.
James Henry provided the first

Football

with an equally cultured clip, at pace and on the half volley, which spoke of the growing dimensions of this reconstituted squad.

For the supporters, the experience is proving as enjoyable as last season's was bitter. Wolves have already won 20 games, six more than they managed in the Championship crash and four more than they celebrated in those last two seasons in the Premier League. The match produced significant moments of quality. The best of

them, happily, came from Wolves and clinched the result.

And in the thick of Brentford's striving, Wolves claimed the goal that from early on you sensed was within their grasp.

For a worrying few moments at the start, there were fears Bakary Sako was going to allow himself to be rattled by Brentford's shaven-haired pit bull of a full-back Alan McCormack, who had a real, Danny Mills-funk on. Danny Mills-funk on. But thankfully Sako reclaimed

his calm.

For a moment it seemed Wolves had squandered a critical opening.

But after a quick throw, a burst and pull-back from McDonald, Henry arrived at the near post and flipped a half-cross, half shot over David Button.

That gave Wolves the second-half building block they wanted; sit-in and wait for that moment when Brentford would be over-exposed. And sure enough, after 72 minutes Jacobs' drilled under Button as he advanced. The coup de grace was set up by The coup de grace was set up by Golbourne as he took a rare opportunity to advance in attacking support. The finish Jacobs drilled support. The finish Jacobs drilled in from 20 yards was his best yet.

# Dragons burned by squad from Brum

Lichfield & Walsall District

ichfield & Walsall Distr Football League Premier Burntwood Dragons 2 Erdington Star 3 League One Longhorn 3 B'hills Comm. 1 Pelsall Villa Colts 6 AC Lions 4 League Two Paradise FC 2 Green Rock Tavern 3 League Throe Hussey Arms 0 Alma F

Hussey Arms 0 Alma FC 0 Walsall Phoenix 3 Shelfield FC 5

Shelfield FC 5
League Four
Wych Elm 5
Dosthill Rangers 0
Eximius Warriors 1
Oak Park Rangers 0
Walsail Sunday Challenge
Cup
Semi-finals
Pelsail Villa FC 3
Burntwood Albion 1 aet
Prince of Wales 3
Freemans FC 2 Freemans FC 2

Jack Donnelly Cup -

Round Three
Swan FC 8 Dog FC 2
League Trophy - Group A
Boatmans Rest 4 Bowman

Longdon Chet 3 Burntwood Star 3 League Trophy – Group C
Cannock Wood 2
Cellar Door 1 Ros Park 2 Duke of Wellington 3 Trent Valley Rovers 1 Boney Hay 2 Turnpike 1 Trident 4

### Stevenson has a good weekend

WALSALL Wood Boxing Club fighter Joseph Steven-son won a British Univer-sities title at 71kg and suc-cessfully defended his Uni Box belt at the weekend.

Stevenson took home the Stevenson took home the student crown in style on Friday night at the Ponds Forge Sports Centre in Sheffield, rolling over his opponent by second round stonnage stoppage

Teesdale University's Teesdale University's Louis Cunningham, a senior ABA champion, was pulled out with a cut eye in the second round against Stevenson, representing Loughborough University.

Less than 24 hours later, Stevenson was boxing again on Priory Park's club show in Dudley and beat home fighter Ryan Partridge by majority points decision to retain his belt.

Meanwhile, Benjamin Whittaker has been told he can look forward to an England call-up despite defeat in the national final of the England Youth Championships. Less than 24 hours later

# Two goals in extra time sink Wood

Tipton Town 2 Walsall Wood O(aet)
WOOD played only their second game in
53 days as they managed to slot in this
much-postponed League Cup quarter final
before another storm flooded the ground.
The result was decided in the second minute of extra time, Wood lost their skipper
to a second yellow whilst Town skipper Lee
Wherton fired home the penalty that was
given for a foul outside the box. It wasn't
the last of a string of mystifying decisions
given by the man in charge.
Wood almost went ahead on 24 minutes,
Harry Harris delivered a right wing free
kick to the far post, Anthony Juxon ghosted
in and his header was scrambled to safety
off the line.

Nine minutes later Craig Hancox crossed from wide left, the ball was half cleared to Harris on the right of the box, his low drive

was saved at full stretch by James Pemberton but the ball ran loose, Max Black was first to react but Pemberton and Conor Gater blocked his goalbound effort.

Town thought they had scored on 38 minutes, Gater cut in from wide left and his cross beyond the far post was hit back across goal by Mike Perks and with Gill beaten the ball cannoned off the inside of the post but stayed out, Stretton first to react hammered the ball clear.

The half ended with Wood camped in the

react hammered the ball clear. The half ended with Wood camped in the Town box, but they couldn't make the all important breakthrough. The first 20 minutes of the second half was all about poor finishing, Black fired over after 52, Archer rolled a cross shot wide on 55, Hancox fired high over on 57 and then on 64 Harris fired high over.

After 72 minutes a mistake by the Wood

defence let in Mensah Kinch on the right of the box, his low near post cross flicked inches wide by Archer. On 79 minutes a high ball forward was misread by the Wood defence and fell for Kinch who raced for goal, he laid the ball inside to Archer but Stretton made a perfectly timed tackle to avert the danger.

A minute later Bilgimer collected a high ball on the edge of the box and was fouled from behind, Harris saw his free kick drift over the right angle.

from behind, Harris saw his free kick drift over the right angle.

The last action of the 90 minutes saw Kinch intercept a crossfield pass and race clear, he cleverly set up Archer, but Stretton again made the all important tackle. After only a minute of extra time Gater raced down the left, cut into the box and set up Archer, Wood defenders Gavin Saunders and Stretton quickly closing him down.

Then with just two minutes gone Kinch got clear on the left, Stretton got back to hold him up, but Kinch cut back inside and went across the face of the box, Stretton's desperate lunge was judged a foul, but somehow the Referee gave a penalty for a foul outside the box.

Then to add insult to injury he showed Stretton a second yellow card and then a red. Wherton drove the penalty to the keeper's left and somehow the ball found it's way past Gill's superb effort to keep it out. On seven minutes Bilgimer came in from wide left and fired into the side netting.

The killer blow came after 15 minutes, a lovely move through the centre that started on halfway, quick-fire passes scythed open the Wood defence before substitute Ben Hadley tucked the ball away.

tage after Dave Pitt won the kick and

Walsall Seconds grabbed a 12-7 victory at Malvern. While the Third team had a convincing 36 -7 win over Stafford.

chase for a try.

### Ref poor, says boss

DEAN SMITH today backed Walsall to bounce back against Preston after railing against "consistently poor" referee Jeremy Simp-

poor" referee Jeremy Simpson.

The Saddlers boss was frustrated by the official's decisions in Saturday's 2-1 home defeat to Crawley, particularly the call to penalise Andy Butler for handball which resulted in Town's fourth-minute penalty.

"I asked the referee at half-time, is there a new directive I don't know about, because I was told the word-

because I was told the word-ing in the rules is deliberate handball?" said Smith. "He was consistently poor. It was never handball."

# Badgers sneak one in to grab the victory

**Brocton 2 Pelsall Villa 1** 

THE early stages of this match showed clearly the intentions of each side as Brocton at-tempted to get their close passing back to normal after a difficult mid-week game.

Pelsall concentrated on two solid banks of four behind hard-working front players, who closed Brocton down and made sure there were no easy passes available.

available.

It was fully 15 minutes before Brocton even got within sight of their visitors' goal and it came from a deep cross by Dan Lomas from the left, headed back into the danger area by Sam Bell on the right and under pressure, headed over by Gary Fife.

It was free kick which

Gary Fife.

It was free kick which gave Pelsall their first chance as Callum Phillips eyed a sight at goal, but his effort went over the bar.

On 25 minutes Dave Ablewhite broke up a move and advanced from the back. He advanced from the back. He found Bell cutting in on the right and Bell found the side netting. Then three minutes later the home side broke through. Lomas made space on the left flank and slipped the ball infield to Fife, who in turn found Dave Berks.

As Barks settled on the

As Berks settled on the ball his pass was dictated for him by a superb diagonal run into and across the box by Bell. Berks delivered and Bell converted.

Bell converted.

The goal should have settled Brocton's nerves, but a series of near misses saw Berks hitting the post after good work from Lomas and Fife heading over again after approach work from Rob Tomlinson and Charlie Jones, the header coming eventually from a Lomas cross.

Pelsall's good defensive work, coupled with their ability to strike quickly in numbers on the break, left him to run on to.

#### **Football**

Brocton's lead looking a

siender one.

A bounce over the head of Ashley Lawley in the heart of Pelsall's defence let Lomas in, but keeper John Miller threw himself at Lomas' feet and blocked his shot.

his shot.

Then Brocton had cause to blow their cheeks as a cross from the bye line, where Richard Allen seemed to have kept danger away, fooled Adam Whitehouse and gently struck the far post before being cleared.

It didn't saws Brocton for

It didn't save Brocton for

It didn't save Brocton for long though as the lively and hard working Ben Lund squirmed free on that same byline and struck a thunderous shot with his left into the net from an impossible angle.

Dave Ablewhite then brought the ball from his own half and was only thwarted by another brave save with his legs by Miller in Pelsall's box as Brocton tried to increase their ton tried to increase their

iipo. It looked as though the It looked as though the home side were going to have to settle for a draw as Berks did everything but score with a dribble into the box and shot rebounding out from the inside of a post, but newcomer Seb Hamilton saved the day, coolly converting his first chance at goal after Berks had lifted the ball over the defence for him to run on to.

# Team snatch the bonus point against Malvern



Walsall's Dan Simpson and Mehemet Vardarcik wrap up a Malvern attacker during the away match

#### Malvern 26 Walsall 29

Malvern 26 Walsall 29
WALSALL managed to gain a bonus
point win against a battling, relegation threatened, Malvern team.
The visitors established a 19 -16
lead thanks to two well-taken tries.
Daniel Simpson scored the first after
a good run by himself and Steve
Halbert. This was followed by some
well-timed passes by Chris Mould
and Dave Pitt.
Young flanker Connor McGuirk

Young flanker Connor McGuirk

forwards to good effect and scored two tries through Keylock and Mustoe with Dixon kicking two penalties during the first half hour.

The first half came to an end with a flurry of yellow cards with a Malvern player also being shown a red because of disrespectful dissent.

because of disrespectful dissent.

The Walsall scrum was now in complete control and this eventually

resulted in a penalty try. Weston and Wood added conversion. The game became a rather scrappy affair during the second half with Walsall extending their advan-

chase for a try.

Roger Weston kicked the conversion and put over, what proved to be a crucial 45 metre penalty.

The hosts produced some good attacks and Hillier was awarded a try.

They then took advantage of several penalties and Keylock managed to squeeze in for a late try to give them a vital bonus point.

Walsall Seconds graphed a 12.7

Badgers bite Late score sees

draw taken away Page 43

outcome of match Page 43

**Bonus snatched** Penalty decides the



Sports Desk 01902 319531

email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

# Believe we can do this, Sawyers

ROMAINE SAWYERS has urged Walsall to keep be-lieving as they look to re-vive their flagging play-off challenge.

challenge.

The Saddlers head to fourth-placed Preston North End this Saturday looking to end a four-game winless run which has seen them slip five points behind the top six.

It's a game which heralds

the top six.

It's a game which heralds the start of an eight-game March, where they face most of the League One promotion contenders and take on rampant local rivals Wolves at the Banks's.

Wolves at the Banks's.

Striker Sawyers is under no illusions as to the tasks ahead and says a positive attitude is vital if the Saddlers are to get back on track.

"It will be a very tough month," he said. "Every game in this league is hard and we just have to keep believing in ourselves and stick together.

stick together.
"Hopefully we can bounce back, starting on Saturday.
"As long as we are doing what we are doing to get as many points as we can until the end of the season, that's the only thing which matters. We can't affect the teams around us.
"We just have to concern."

"We just have to concentrate on ourselves."

After thumping Notts
County 5-1 last month, the Saddlers have scored just twice during their four-

#### Ray back in the dugout

LEGENDARY boss Ray Graydon is set for a shock one-off return to the Walsall dug-out

The former chief, who twice led the club to pro-motion, will take charge of

motion, will take charge of a Saddlers Legends team at the Club Legends Cup tournament this summer.

Graydon, affectionately known by fans as "Sir Ray", has agreed to manage a side of 10 former players and five fans. They will take on teams from Midlands rivals Wolves, Villa, Albion and Blues, along with a media team in the tournament on July 12 at Birmingham's LG Arena.

All money raised will or

All money raised will go to support the charity Cure Leukaemia.

Former players poised to line-up for the Saddlers in-clude Tony Millard, Mark Taylor, Andy Reece, Brian Palgrave, Tony Barras and Andy Tilson Palgrave, To Andy Tilson.

# **Wood make a comeback in eight-goal thriller**

BROWNED off Wood 4-2 down courtesy of a Lei Brown hat-trick came roaring back to snatch a draw as football returned to Oak Park with an eight goal thriller.

Wood deservedly went ahead on 13 minutes, another intricate passing move through the centre ending with Graig Hancox firing into the net from 10 yards.

United started to get a toehold in the game, but equalised against the run of play on 21 minutes, a free kick from halfway found hotshot Lei Brown in the box and he scored with a low drive.

It got worse for Wood four minutes later,

Football

a right wing corner bounced across the face of the six-yard box and the ever alert Brown stooped to head in his second at the far post.

On 43 minutes a neat short right wing corner routine saw Andre Gonzales roll the ball back to Hancox to deliver first time into the box for Juxon to race in and power a header home.

Right on halftime a silly foul wide left was delivered into the Wood box by Joe Adams, it was missed by everyone and bounced into the net off the inside of the far post.

It was Wood all the way at this point as they searched for the equaliser. But Brown silenced the Wood faithful on 52 minutes, a central free kick on halfway found him on the edge of the box, he took the ball on his chest with his back to goal, let it bounce and swivelled to hit a stunning drive into the roof of the net to make it 2-4.

root of the net to make it 2-4. The breakthrough came on 62 minutes, Gonzales collected a ball 25 yards out, his low drive completely fooling keeper Jay. Wood kept up the pressure and three minutes later a suicidal back pass by Dean Curtis was picked up by Jay just outside his right hand post.

A corner was punched to the edge of the box by keeper Jay, Hawkins who got in a brave diving header but was caught by a flailing arm from a defender.

flailing arm from a defender.

The referee harshly pointed to the spot and Hawkins made no mistake to give Wood a deserved equaliser.

Both sides to their credit went looking for the winner, on 85 minutes the ball flew around the Wood box before Elliot Nash saw his goal bound effort to go wide.

The last chance of a pulsating MFA encounter saw Hancox wide left roll the ball back to Rock who cut inside and from 35 yards hit a cross shot whistling wide.

# Not out yet says Captain

CAPTAIN Andy Butler insists Walsall are not out of the play-off race after claiming Saturday's home defeat by Crawley was merely a minor setback.

minor setback.

The 2-1 loss at the Banks's – a second straight home reverse – has left the Saddlers five points behind sixth-placed Peterborough having played a game more.

Dean Smith's side now head to fourth-placed Preston on Saturday to begin an eight-game March in which they play most of League One's top sides. But Butler is convinced they have the capability to bounce back.

"As long as we get the

capability to bounce back.

"As long as we get the points on the board it doesn't really matter where we get them from," he said.

"It's not doom and gloom, we have just got to bounce back and get on to the next game. We can go to teams higher up the league and maybe get results now. It's just a minor setback. It's just a minor setback. It's football.

football.

"Preston will be a tough game but I've every faith we can go there and, like we did last year, get a result." Butler was the central figure in the game's biggest talking point when he was harshly adjudged to have deliberately handled in the area.

# PLAYOFF HOPES

Walsall 1 Crawley 2

THREE games, two demoralising home defeats and just one point is all the Saddlers have to show for a month which has left those riding their play-off bandwagon urgently checking its roadworthiness.

It was capped off on Saturday with a 2-1 home defeat to Craw-ley, which bore the hallmarks of familiar setbacks.

setbacks.
The visitors, in their first action for four weeks after a weather-enforced layoff, took advantage of the harshest of penalty awards to snatch an early lead through Mark Tubbs who then doubled the advantage early in the second period.
Walsall showed typical grit and pulled one back through Sam Mantom but ultimately fell short - a fate which might soon befall their play-off hopes.

#### Momentum

With 14 games to go, it is far too soon to write them off but with big games on the horizon, an upward swing in momentum is needed lest the fat lady begin aleasing her throat

needed lest the fat lady begin clearing her throat. John Gregory's claim it was "one million per cent" a penalty might have been mischievous but the Craw-ley manager hit the nail on the head when he observed that for all Walsall's pres-sure in the final half hour, they failed to test visiting keeper Paul Jones. And there lies the crux

And there lies the crux of the matter. The Saddlers

#### by A Reporter

play excellent football but simply don't score enough goals. Smith's side have hit the net just 37 times in 32 games and ultimately hav-en't got the firepower to bail out the usually excellent de-fence when things go wrong. Last month's 5-1 win at Notts County looked like being the moment they'd

being the moment they'd cracked it but the next four

cracked it but the next four games have brought just two goals and two points.

Michael Ngoo joined on loan from Liverpool in the hope of adding an extra string to the attacking bow but if anything there is a nagging sense his arrival has had a negative effect on the team's rhythm in the final third. Certainly, they were far more effective on Saturday once Romaine Saturday once Romaine Sawyers had been restored

Sawyers had been restored to the fray.

By then they were already two down, courtesy of the controversial penalty and sublime skill from Billy Clarke.

Butler thumped the desk during post-match interviews as he fought the will to comment on Simpson's decision to award the spotkick, after the ball had bounced off his head, into the ground and then into his arm in the fourth minute.



Sam Mantom doesn't bother with any celebrations as his goal was only a consolation for Walsall

#### Saddlers rematch tickets sell out

WOLVES fans have again showed their commitment to the cause after the club announced their allocation for next month's derby at Walsall is already sold out. The last of the 3,400 available tickets for the game at the Banks's Stadium on March 8 were snapped up last week. Walsallwon the first league meeting beginning the same and the same and the same at the same and t

first league meeting be tween the sides 1-0.

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